Thursday, January 1, 2015

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Price when sold 50p

Knuckle duster threat at Spar

A FATHER OF THREE threatened a shopkeeper with a knuckle duster when he was confronted over two cans of beer he was trying to steal. Shoplifter Kevin Hutch-ien stole two cans of bear

ison stole two cans of beer from Spar in Heath Hayes.

And when he was con-fronted by Akaash Rajput outside the store, he pulled a knuckle duster from his pocket and threatened to hit him.

hit him.

Mr Kevin Jones, prosecuting at Stafford Crown
Court, said Mr Rajput, who
described himself as being
upset and angry, told the
defendant to take a swing.
Hutchison drew his fist
back, only to punch a fence.

Police were called to ar-rest Hutchison, who lived opposite the shop in Hed-nesford Road, and found he still had the knuckle-duster on him on him.

Hutchison, aged 28, who admitted charges of theft and possessing an offensive weapon on September 29, was given a three-month prison sentence suspended for 18 months with £350

costs, £10 compensation and £80 surcharge.

Mr Neil Gerrity, defend-ing, said Hutchison was sober for seven months – the longest time in recent years

– until September when he
separated from his partner.

Cemetery to be expanded

EXTENSION works to a Rugeley cemetery will start

Stile Cop cemetery will be expanded as part of the second phase of a £295,000 project.

The work at the council-owned site in Stile Cop Road will begin this month and include widening the existing entrance to enable two-way traffic, the installa-tion of gates and additional access roads and paths to the new burial areas.

Trees and vegetation will be cleared.

EW STARI ADIUM S

A NEW sports complex will be built in Cannock seven years after its predecessor shut amid a political fall-out.

Planning bosses have given unanimous backing to a multi-million pound redevelopment of the old Cannock Stadium site, which will

of the old Cannock Stadium site, which will include sports pitches, allotments, children's play areas and a community centre. However, planners turned down a bid to build a two-storey office building on car parts manufacturer Gestamp Tallent's site on the grounds it would create traffic snarl-ups on an already congested Wolverhampton Road.

The stadium site has lain empty since closing in 2008, forcing groups to find new facilities. It was earmarked for a housing development

facilities. It was earmarked for a housing development but plans were scrapped in 2012 when the newly elected Labour council announced the land would be returned to sport and leisure use.

Opening

A public consultation was carried out to find out what residents in Cannock Chase wanted to see built on the

wanted to see built on the site.

Councillor Frank Allen, who attended the opening of the stadium in 1951 at the age of 15, described its demise nearly 60 years later as 'the biggest travesty in my political life'.

He said: "We fought it tooth and nail but we were in opposition.

in opposition.

"This new sports hub is no more than residents de-serve after the way the sta-dium was demolished."

Councillor Maureen Free-man voiced regret that the plans omitted an athletics track. "However, the public has chosen most of what is in the plan," she said. Plan-

welcomed the inclusion of a bat-roosting area.

Work on the sports hub is expected to start in April. But the planning committee were divided over the appli-cation to build new office space and a car park at Ges-tamp Tallent, the biggest employer in the town.

employer in the town.
Councillor Michael
Grocott said: "If we start
blocking expansion plans, companies are going to start walking away. By being per-nickety, we could cost people the chance of jobs." But Councillor Bob Todd

said the development 'flew in the face' of the district's local plan drawn up last year. "We will look like fools if we draw up a plan and don't follow it."

don't follow it."

The committee heard that neighbours had already raised concerns about the existing use of the site, particularly in relation to lorries parking on Wolverhampton Road waiting for their time slot to enter it, causing tailbacks to the A5 Longford roundabout.

Committee chairman Councillor Kraujalis said residents got a 'raw deal'.

Three times the fun as triplets home



Matthew and Stacey Farmer from Cannock with their triplets Kai, Callum and Sophie enjoying their first Christmas together

THEY were so fragile when they were born that their parents could not cud-dle them. But Kai, Callum and Sophie Farmer

and their parents have had a wonder-ful first Christmas at home together. The triplets were born 14 weeks prematurely and weighed less than 6lb between them. Parents Matthew and Stacey, of York Road, Cannock, count five wears trying to have shillen. spent five years trying to have children but after one course of IVF found they

but after one course of IVF found they were expecting three.

Matthew and his 28-year-old wife fi-nally had their three youngsters home together in September, after they had been born by caesarean section at Bir-

mingham Women's Hospital on March
18. Matthew admitted it had been a
tough year but added that having his
children home for Christmas was the
only present he needed. The 32-yearold said: "It's been amazing having all
three of them home together."

© Emily Javne Cooper was among

three of them home together."

• Emily Jayne Cooper was among the new arrivals at Walsall Manor Hospital and the Midwife Led Unit on Christmas Day. She was born at 3.53am weighing 7lb 7oz to teacher Christine Billings, 36, and accountant Lee Cooper, 33, from Cannock.

Christine said: "We still can't believe it. I was in the birthing pool for an hour, and then Emily was here."



Christine Billings of Cannock with Emily Jayne Cooper, born on Christmas Day

Garages to make way for housing

THE demolition of almost 70 council-owned garages to pave the way for new homes in Cannock has been approved by councillors. Five sites are to be bull-dozed to free up the land for regeneration around the district. Four of the parcels of land are expected to be used for residential, and another for parking space.

In total, 69 garages are earmarked for demolition and owners will be offered alternatives storage facilities. Cannock Council's cabinet approved the plans for Wood View, Ravenhilt; George Brearley Close, Rugeley; Surrey Close and Warwick Close, Rumer Hill; Melbourne Road and Hobart Road, Heath Hayes; and Cannock Wood Street, Cannock Wood.

Bungalows and houses will be created on most of the sites and funding is in place for demolition work to go ahead. Councillor Frank Allen, portfolio holder for housing, said: "Garage occupancy on four of the sites is below 50 per cent."

A report to the committee, from head of housing and waste management Ian Tennant, said: "It is proposed that 69 council garages are demolished.
"Of these, 32 are currently occupied and would result in a £13,562 loss in annual rent income."

Stephen song is re-released

A CHARITY single in memory of Stephen Sutton has been re-released to raise money for the Teenage Can-cer Trust.

Neon Brotherhood, a group of 40 singers from Burntwood, have re-re-leased 'Hope Ain't A Bad Thing' which was recorded in memory of the 19-year-old who died in May.

The song for Stephen was written by Martin Stanyer and reached number 16 in the summer, raising more than £10,000 for charity.



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Tourism boosted by Euro funding

OVERNIGHT stays in Staffordshire are increasing at a better rate than the national trend, tourism figures show.

Destination Staffordshire says help

from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to boost the

opment Fund (ERDF) to boost the county as a leading short-break des-tination made a significant difference. It will use the evidence and the success of its initiatives to seek fur-ther funding to build on the progress.

Mark Kerrigan, chair of Destination Staffordshire, said: "Our targeted approach is seeing real benefits, and Staffordshire has played its part in the West Midlands featuring in the top ten destinations for UK visitors again." Data available for 2013 showed the volume and value of overnight stays in Staffordshire increased by 13 per cent and 18 per cent respectively over 2012, outstripping the performance of

the West Midlands and England as a whole. The number of staying trips rose from 1,404,000 to 1,586,000 with the value increasing by £33,277,000.

Employment in the sector rose by two per cent to 28,330 – six per cent of Staffordshire's total employment. It continues a trend which shows the total number of trips to Staffordshire growing over the period 2008-13 by more than 30 per cent.



Go-kart track rejected amid fears over noise

ed by South Staffordshire Council. Council-

lors voted almost unanimously to reject the plans submitted by Chasewater Kart Racing. The one-kilometre track would have been built on the former Hollybush Farm in Warstone Road, Shareshill. Mike Stackhouse, chairman of the club, said: "We were formerly based in Chasewater.

"But we had to close when construction of the M6 Toll

"We have rejected several sites already due to the very concerns raised by councillors about this application and only decided to go ahead with this site as we feel it.

with this site as we feel it gives us the best chance to

"We still feel that we can overcome them."

The main issues raised

against the application were noise, traffic created by visitors and encroachment onto green belt land. The track would have been open seven days a week, and

special race days would have been held at certain points throughout the year.

Parking

"Around the country, many other circuits have been built down country lanes, just as ours would be," Mr Stackhouse said.

be," Mr Stackhouse said.
"They do not cause issues.
The plans also included a

The plans also included a race control building with a toilet, food preparation area and picnic area, a storage building and car parking, as well as new access from Warstone Road and landscaping around the track.

Councillor Robert Cope said: "The site has a high visual prominence and no

said: "The site has a high visual prominence and no account has been taken upon the visual effects it will have when viewed from Shareshill village and Saredon Hill which overlooks the site." Saredon, Shareshill, Hilton, Cheslyn Hay and Featherstone Parish Councils objected to the plans.

Revamp for post office set to start

PENKRIDGE post office will close next week to allow for a refurbishment that will see some services available on Sundays when

available on Sundays when it reopens.

The branch, at the Co-op in Market Street, will be modernised as part of the Government's investment Government's investment programme throughout the Post Office network. It will close at 5.30pm on Wednesday, although the retail store will remain open during the refurbishment.

When the branch reopens

Men the branch reopens at 1pm on Friday, January 16, it will have four counter positions providing services from 9am to 5.30pm Monday to Saturday.

Selected post office products and services will be available from the retail counter during shop opening hours – 7am to 10pm Monday to Saturday and 10am to 4pm on Sundays.

Clare Downs, head of operations at The Midcounties Co-operative, said: "As a community retailer, we are delighted to be welcoming customers to our newly refused."

customers to our newly re-furbished branch."

Alternative branches available while Penkridge is closed include Bideford Way post office in Cannock, and the Rising Brook outlet in Cannon Lane, Stafford.

School wins national award



Acting assistant headteacher Sue Dutton with pupils Joey Hales and Katie Davies

OUTDOOR classes at a Cannock school for pupils with special needs have scooped a national award for excellence.

Sherbrook Primary School's efforts to take all the children sailing, holding lessons in a sensory garden and on day trips has attracted a bronze award from the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom.

It was praised by the council for developing a programme to benefit its pupils, taking the pupils canoeing, making the most of its small grounds in Brunswick Road

and for exploiting these activities to aid the teaching of science, maths, literacy and ge-ography. Sherbrook's acting assistant head Sue Dutton was presented with the bronze award certificate at a ceremony in Derby.

She says the pupils, aged two to 11, are taken to try sailing and canoeing at South Staffordshire Sailing Club in Gailey which provides a special needs service with qualified instructors in the daytime.

"In the future we hope to get the silver and gold awards," she added.

Payouts over HS2 about to launch

A NEW compensation scheme for those affected by HS2 is set to launch in the

new year. Homeowners who live along the route from London to Lichfield will be able

don to Lichfield will be able to apply.

A letter to residents and businesses said: "You will wish to be aware that after careful consideration, the Secretary of State for Transport has decided that the launch of the discretionary schemes to assist those property owners affected by Phase One of HS2 will take place in January 2015.

Place in January 2015.

"This package of measures will be administered by HS2 Ltd under the guiding principles of the Residents' Charter and will signal the beginning of a new seletion. Charter and will signal the beginning of a new relationship with the communities along the route of Phase One of HS2.

"The Charter formalises the aim of HS2 Ltd to improve communication with residents and communities

residents and communities near the line of route.

"This will help ensure that residents are treated in a fair, clear and reasonable manner.

manner."
Transport Secretary Patrick McLoughlin is set to formally approve the final route of the £50bn project in the coming weeks.

Gipsy jazz in charity show

GIPSY jazz features in a fundraising evening of mu-sic at the Lichfield Garrick this month

The Remi Harris Trio will be playing a selection will be playing a selection of original compositions and popular melodies of jazz and swing. Soprano saxophone specialist George Huxley is special guest.

All proceeds from the concert will be donated to the chairman of Lichfield District Council's chosen charities.

Tickets for the show on January 16 can be booked at www.lichfieldgarrick.com or on 01543 412121.

Show raises £1k

A TOTAL of £1,000 has been donated to three charbeen donated to three char-tities thanks to a Lichfield Sinfonia concert at Nether Stowe School Hall. The re-cipients were Lichfield Ca-thedral East End Appeal, the Friends of St Peters Church in Stonnall, and the Forces Children's Trust



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Walks are between 60 - 90 minutes in length, moderate pace suitable for regular walkers. It is free to participate and all ages are welcome.

Walks are weekly on Wednesdays at 11.00am meeting at Rugeley Leisure Centre, Burnthill Lane WS15 2HZ.

Each route is planned in advance and led by trained, experienced volunteer walk leaders who know the area and will support you.

Full walking programme available. For further details please contact Susan Blower on 01785 788472 or susan.blower@ageuksouthstaffs.org.uk Please wear suitable clothing and footwear.

www.ageuk.org.uk/southstaffs



ClassifiedAds

A HORSE riding school near Burntwood has com-pleted its course to teach youngsters crucial life

Gartmore Riding School

Gartmore Riding School was awarded a £2,810 grant from the People and Crime Commissioner, Matthew Ellis' People Power Fund which enabled the school to run a scheme where youngsters learned tasks such as cleaning out the stables and learning out

the stables and learning

As part of his commitment to local communities, the Commissioner is providing £500,000 in 2014/15. Students given

awards by Duke

UNIVERSITY Technical College students from the West Midlands have been presented with special awards by the Duke of York at St James's Palace.

Ninety eight 16 to 18-year-olds from both

18-year-olds from both the Black Country UTC in Walsall and The JCB Acad-emy in Rocester received the Duke of York Award for Technical Education.

The award highlights he talent and excellence

of the many young people who have chosen technical

education.

Cathedral needs

£1m for rewiring LICHFIELD Cathedral

needs £1million to carry out urgent maintenance work to parts of the histor-ical building.

Bosses have applied to the Government for a

grant to help pay for rewir-ing, because the electrics

Lichfield MP Michael Fabricant is in favour of the application, saying there is an urgent need for the electrics to be repaired.

are in a 'serious state'.

how to ride.

vacancies spark big response

DOZENS of people have applied for 300 new places with West Midlands Ambu-

with West Midlands Ambulance Service.

The service is recruiting 300 student paramedics, with applications rolling in since opening on December

The roles are being created to increase the paramedic workforce of the trust and help meet the increased demand it has been experiencing throughout the year.

eneing throughout the year.
Chief executive Anthony
Marsh said: "The last time
we offered this opportunity
we were delighted with the
response and I am confident
that we will have a similar
level of interest this time."

Recruitment adviser Lou-ise Harris said: "All of these positions are for 2015-16 with the first cohort starting with the first cohort starting their training in March; we expect all 300 new staff to be working on the road by September. There are vacancies in all areas of the region." The 30-month paid training course will lead to becoming a state registered paramedic.

More information can be found at www.jobs.nhs.uk
A paper application can be made by calling the recruitment team on 01384 215896. Applications close at 11.59pm on Tuesday.

at 11.59pm on Tuesday

Help ends for companies

A FINANCIAL assistance scheme for small and me-dium-sized firms has closed due to demand in applica-tions and after supporting 170 businesses.

Cannock and Lichfield companies were among those supported by the scheme managed by Bir-mingham City Council and funded through the Euro-pean Regional Development Fund as part of the Business Development Programme.

Gordon Alcott, economic development and planning portfolio leader at Cannock Chase Council, said the re-sponse had been 'fantastic'.

Chase stroll

CHASE & District Group Ramblers will be going on a 10-mile 'moderate' walk at Cannock Chase on Sunday. Walkers should meet at Marquis Drive Visitor Cen-tre at 9am. Anyone requir-ing further information can call the walk leader, John, on 01543 686429.

Paramedic Plans for change at sports and social club

The owners of Yates Bros Sports and Social Club, Pelsall, have submitted plans to convert the site's two function suites into office space.

If the plans are approved the rooms could be split into offices.

The club in Lime Lane, has two rooms available and also houses a social club and football team

The plans will not affect the existing so-

cial club or lounge bar and the sports facilities, including the full-size, part-floodlit football pitch, will remain unchanged.

However, the gallery function room on the first floor and the patio function room, which both seat 80 people, will close. The two-storey building is unused during the week. The plans were submitted to the planning committee at Cannock Chase District Council at the start of December

In a planning statement, chartered surveyor J Wilks said: "The continued use of

the whole building as a social club is not sustainable. The proposal would see the northern section of the building remain in use as a social club. The demand for hire of function rooms is limited to weekends and often this section of the property is empty.

The applicant said the decision has been taken because the social club subsidises the function rooms.

If the plans go ahead it would not require any external changes to the building, land-scape or access. The site has 40 parking

spaces. The applicant also said the proposed change would put the club on a sound footing for the future.

The social club has a busy darts team and provides free live entertainment each week end. It is open seven evenings a week and from noon on weekends.

But Norton Canes councillor Zaphne Stretton said she was saddened by the news. "It is such a shame that they are closing the function rooms. They held lovely events there

Link-up to get best value from unused buildings

lock the value of underused and empty public buildings in Staffordshire has moved forward

with the confirmation of a preferred bidder.
Staffordshire County Council's Cabinet confirmed that Kier has been chosen to deliver proposals for property and land schemes on behalf of the council and Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Ellis.

The aim of the partner-ship is to allow more flexibil-ity and greater commercial freedom with the potential to be rolled out with other

to be rolled out with other partners to improve services and bring investment and growth to the county.

All schemes will only be endorsed if there is an approved business case, and the county council and the PCC will have the final say.

Expertise

Ian Parry, Staffordshire County Council's deputy leader and cabinet member leader and cabinet member for finance, resources and transformation, said the new partnership would help get better value for taxpay-ers and bring in fresh in-vestment, growth and jobs to the county. Ian said: "Our message is very much that Stafford-ships is onen for business

shire is open for business and this new partnership will bring in the commer-cial expertise to allow us to take a fresh look at potentially packaging property or land with partners to make projects more attractive to investors." As part of the

By Simon Stone

proposed 10-year deal, the county council and the PCC would retain ownership of assets. Schools are not in-

assets. Schools are not missioned a full-scale review of police buildings, estates and assets in Staffordshire to ensure that public money is used better and to make police more visible and accessible than ever before. "This partnership will bring new ideas and move things forward at a greater pace, making sure that Staffordshire Police has the right tools to do its job."

right tools to do its job

John Fozzard, strategic development director at Kier Services, said: "We are delighted to have been se-lected for this ground-breaking new partnership, which will enable us to showcase our breadth of capabilities, provided by Kier's combined divisions, ranging from strategic asset management and development right through to facilities management and construction."

1,300 park jobs on offer

MORE than 2,000 job hunters have so far applied for a position at Alton Towers, bosses have said.

The attraction launched its annual recruitment drive

The attraction launched has all the last month.

A total of 1,300 seasonal posts are up for grabs.

Kerry Alcock, resort recruitment manager, said: "That includes the additional entertainment roles that were created with the opening of our new CBeebies attraction."

IS PLENTY near 47 OUTSIDE OUR SCHOOL schools 今

A TOTAL of 47 schools in Staffordshire joined a road safety campaign to reduce traffic speeds outside their premises last year. The 20 Is Plenty initiative was launched to encourage materies to slow down to a

Councillor Mark Deaville, highways chief, said: "Staf-fordshire is amongst the top two counties for road safety in the country.

Campaign

"Our roads are now the safest they've been since records began thirty years

ago.
"Our 20 Is Plenty camour 20 is rienty cam-paign is one of many ini-tiatives we operate which helps to keep our roads and school children safe and I'm pleased to see so many of our schools benefiting from the scheme."

Around 175 schools have taken part in the scheme since it was introduced four

Speeders targeted

years ago.

"It is now encouraging more parents and children to walk and cycle to school," Councillor Deaville added.

was launched to encourage motorists to slow down to a maximum of 20 mph when driving outside schools.

The Staffordshire County Council-led campaign uses speed indication devices which display the speed of a vehicle as it passes by.

Councillor Mark Deaville, it was the speed of a vehicle as it passes by.

HM Revenue & Customs

is urging first-time self-as-sessment filers who have not sent in their returns to register online now.

Online plea over

self-assessment

About 800,000 people in the West Midlands have to file a Self Assessment return including 135,000 in Staffordshire. Visit www.gov.uk/how-to-send-selfassessment-online/sign-upfor-an-online-account

Salon to be sold

A FORMER hairdressers in Cannock is to be sold off for homes. Cannock Chase Council has agreed to dispose of its freehold interest in the property in Calving Hill rather than let it again.





Councillor Mark Deaville - 'roads are now the safest since records began'



OPEN SUNDAYS 10AM - 4PM

THE BEST OF

OUT walking, we stopped at the local corner shop for some traditional sweets to keep the chill at bay. Back in pre-decimal times did any of us, in our wildest dreams, imagine that one day we would pay 12 shillings for a bag of herbal tablets?

MORE horrors of inflation. At an English Heritage shop I found a penny whistle for £15.

LIVE coverage 24/7. Instant replays of the action. Indepth analysis by ex-SAS types. Terrorism experts describing exactly how stun grenades are used. The coverage of the Australian cafe siege was fascinating for viewers. But let's not deny that it was also a priceless training aid for any terrorists planning something similar.

THE most important thing, declared one earnest radio reporter, was not to make any assumptions in the early stages of the hostage crisis. There seemed a desperate, politically-correct desire to avoid mentioning Muslims or Islamic terrorism. But when a wild-eyed bearded man with a black bandana unfurls a black flag covered with Islamist slogans in Sydney, I think we can safely assume it's not Ned Kelly.

USEFUL winter tips from my insurance company, telling us what to do if the pipes freeze and burst. "Check for bulges in the ceilings of rooms beneath the burst pipe, indicating trapped water. Place a bucket underneath the bulge and puncture it to control the drain." I remember my father doing exactly that one hard winter. He punctured the ceiling, the water burst through, there was a huge flashbang and the Old Man fell off his stepladder. Moral: if you must puncture the ceiling, use something sensible. Not an must puncture the ceiling, use something sensible. Not an



GEORGE Osborne has missed a trick. The price of oil is tumbling and looks like staying low for many months to come. If the Chancellor had slapped 2p on a litre at a time like this, motorists would hardly have noticed. Osborne could have slipped a few billion into the nation's coffers lion into the nation's coffers with virtually no pain. (Keep this to yourselves, right?)

A CITY executive who dodged £43,000 in rail fares has been banned from any good. But don't you wonder how many City high flyers are still at their desks on telephone-number salaries, having gambled away the sort of sums where £43,000 barely registers as small change?

IN the 10 years that the £1,000 million Rosetta space probe spent getting from Earth to its utterly pointless rendezvous with a comet 300 million miles away, antibiotics continued their relentless decline towards the point of uselessness. The latest report, commissioned by the Government, suggests that by 2050, unless new antibiotics are created to tackle drug-resistant infections, 10 million people around the world will die unprecessarily. So how people around the world will die unnecessarily. So how should we spend our money, on sending pointless objects to pointless comets in pursuit of pointless knowledge, or saving millions of lives?

AND yet another first on the nature front. I have just held a goldcrest in my hand. I'd never seen one before. It is a tiny, beautifully marked little bird, smaller than a wren a tirty, beautifully marked little bird, striamer than a wreti and as gaudy as a jezzbel's jewel box. It must have flown into our window, although being such a lightweight it didn't produce the usual "perdoing!" that signals the impact of blackbirds or pigeons, or the kinetic energy to kill itself. The goldcrest was stunned and sat on my hand for a few minutes until it flew off into the nearest tree.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Attack man's sentence cut bid fails Raid-hit

A MAN from Cannock who was jailed for his part in a drink and drug-fuelled rampage — in which one man had his jaw and eye socket broken — has lost an appeal against his sentence.

As a result of bringing his appeal, Alan John Clifton, 25, of Brunswick Road, saw his 10-year term effec-tively increased by top judges in

Clifton was jailed at Stafford Crown Court in April after he was convicted of robbery and intentional grievous bodily harm. He had ad-mitted affray and having an offen-

united airray and naving an offensive weapon.

Upholding the sentence, three judges said eight weeks already served in prison would not count towards the term.

Mr. Institut Lewis en 18 (1971) 1971

Mr Justice Lewis said: "Given the

nature of this offending, a sentence of 10 years is well within the range, given the very serious injuries caused by the offence of GBH. "We consider the sentence im-

we consider the sentence imposed by the recorder was entirely justified."

The Court of Appeal heard Clifton was out drinking in Can-nock and Rugeley with 20-year-old friend Callum Craig Smallman on

the night of June 28 last year when theysubjected Jason Howmans to a brutal attack in which his jaw was brutal attack in which his jaw was broken and his eye socket damaged. On appeal, lawyers for Clifton argued that his sentence was too long, particularly given his previous good character. But Mr Justice Lewis, said: "Given the criminal conduct he engaged in on that night, a sentence of 10 years is richly deserved."

playgroup delighted by support

organisations and individu-als has put a smile back on the faces of people running burglary-plagued play

a burglary-plagued play-group.
"They have restored our faith in human nature," said Lynn Taylor, a member of the committee at Brown-shore Pre-school Playgroup, in Hobnock Road, Essing-ton.

in Honock Road, Essington.

She spoke after receiving a £1,000 donation from Wednesfield Rotary Club to help repair the damage and loss from two break-ins in a week during which computers were stolen and rooms wrecked. wrecked.

wrecked.

The cheque was presented by Rotarian Barry Picken.

Mrs Taylor said the cash followed the donation of a TV and an iPad from Tesco

TV and an iPad from Tesco and School Stickers to help boost their fundraising Christmas raffle.

Local firm Fife Installations also did not charge them for the labour when putting in a CCTV system aimed at preventing further crime at the premises.

The pre-school is not-forprofit, offering low-cost education to young children of underprivileged families, and supports its running costs mainly through fundraising. Go to justgiving.

Players get leagues call

PLAYERS are being sought for six-a-side football for six-a-side football leagues in Cannock and Burntwood.

The competition, organised and run by Leisure Leagues, is held at Cannock Cricket And Hockey Club and Burntwood Leisure Contract throughout the and Burntwood Leisure Centre throughout the week, as well as Darwin Erasmus College in Burnt-wood on Thursdays.

Leisure Leagues is a not-Leisure Leagues is a nor-for-profit organisation, with all profits from the leagues being donated to charities and good causes. Call 0333 1232340 or visit

www.leisureleagues.net

Charity album

A COLLECTION of music composed by local musicians Stuart Jones and Freddy Woolly is raising funds for St Giles Hospice. Tranquil Moments, an album of mu-sic for therapeutic healing and relaxation, is available at www.stgileshospice.com/ tranquilmoments

Orders taken for January

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Truckstop now on road to expansion

By Craig Hughes

ONE of the oldest truckstops in the UK has been given permission to expand, paving the way for work to begin on an extra

75 lorry parking spaces.
Hollies Transport Cafe, which has served the likes of Tom Jones and Bernard Manning, is

Jones and Bernard Manning, is looking to use shrub land off the A5 Watling Street for the bays. South Staffordshire Council ap-proved the planning application. De-spite being in the green belt, there have been no objections from resi-dents in the area, Highways Agency or council officers or council officers

Council or Leslie Ashley said: "We are very pleased with the expansion and work that has already taken place at the Hollies. From what it was before to what it is today is a substantial improvement.

Nickname

"This extension work is a logical, "This extension work is a logical, and hopefully final, development as it is no secret that the current parking on the site leaves a lot to be desired. I do not believe it will completely eradicate HGVs parking in lay-bys but it will go a long way."

The site is a well-known landmark with the Hollies Cottage initially built in 1894.

mark with the Hollies Cottage initially built in 1894.
A tea room was opened in the 1930s and became a home and cafe in 1959 after being bought by truck driver Derek Curtis.
During the 1970s and 1980s it was given the nickname Greasy Lil's and in 2002 won the Truckstop of the Year award.

ear award.

After being taken on by new ownanter being taken on by new own-ers the business was given a revamp and called the New Hollies in 2011. It was rebranded as Road King last year although it is still known by most as the Hollies.

most as the Hollies.

The area of scrubland would be given a hard surface and the 75 HGV spaces will be provided for the cafe and truckstop. The application put forward states there is a 'pressing need' for an expansion.



The truckstop site is a landmark on the A5 with the Hollies cottage initially built in 1894



The application put forward states there is a 'pressing need' for an expansion





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RE-OPENS FRIDAY 2ND JANUARY

HGV man jailed for collision on M-way

A LORRY driver who worked for his uncle's Can-nock-based haulage firm has been jailed for six months and banned from driving for a year for ploughing into a trailer at the rear of a line of stationary traffic.

Mandeep Rattu pleaded guilty at Warwick Crown Court to dangerous driving in an incident which closed a section of the M6.

A Highways Agency CCTV recording showing what looked like an explo-sion as Rattu ploughed into Gavin Curtis's trailer, near junction two on the south-

junction two on the south-bound carriageway, was played in court.

Mr Ian Ball, prosecuting, said the 25-year-old, who worked for Rattu Transport worked for Rattu Transport in Cannock, had driven his Volvo HGV from there to Birmingham Freight and picked up a shipping container which he was due to take to Hinckley. The court heard that Mr Curtis was driving his own HGV south.

driving his own HGV south.

Mr Ball said the tachograph showed Rattu, who claimed something hit his windscreen and he had put his hand up to protect his face, had been doing 55mph and had not braked at all.

Battu of Crocketts Ave.

Rattu, of Crocketts Avenue, Handsworth, suffered a broken leg in the collision.

Beer festival

THE Lichfield Winter Beer Festival will be held on January 23 and 24, at the city's Guildhall.

It features 30-plus real ales, most of them sourced from local and regional breweries, plus a range of traditional ciders, perry and specialist bottled beers.

Amongst the beers are Hobsons 'Old Prickly'.

The festival is open each day from midday to 11pm, and admission is £2 before

6pm and £3 after 6pm.
Further information and tickets are obtainable at www.lichfieldarts.org.uk or on 01543 262223.

Invite to Sappers

THE Cannock branch of the THE Cannock branch of the Royal Engineers Associa-tion is holding its monthly meeting on Tuesday at 8pm in the Drill Hall, Walsall Road, Bridgtown. All Sappers past and present are welcome to attend. Further information is available by calling 01543 423319.

Surgery allowed to add consultation rooms

A DOCTORS' surgery in Huntington will add additional consultation rooms after

add additional consultation rooms after planning permission was granted. The Colliery Medical Practice will be able to host three more consultation rooms and a treatment room in its planned extension. Other additions include a common room,

a sluice room, a conference room, an extra toilet and eight additional car parking spaces for extra patients. The centre cur-rently also houses a pharmacy. The plans were approved by South Staf-fordshire Council's regulatory committee. A report submitted to the meeting said: "The

existing GP surgery and pharmacy provides an important community service to local residents.

"In order to continue to provide this service and meet the needs of local residents, the surgery needs to expand to accommodate more consulting rooms now that residential development is predominantly

residential development is predominant, finished."

No objections were lodged by councillors or residents. Councillor Leslie Ashley said the practice is in high demand and the extra rooms are needed urgently.

He said: "This is one of the improvements

we have been looking forward to for some

"We managed to get the centre opened in We fill flagge to get the centre opened in 2011 and it was always a possibility that the practice would be extended and the practice group have now put in this proposal. "It is excellent and something that we

need in the village. It has been a great suc-cess in providing facilities for local people." Councillor Ashley said the centre is often

very busy despite its size and needs to expand.

He said: "Parking for the centre is great already but the main medical centre is in

Cannock, and parking there is terrible and

Cannock, and parking there is terrible and it is very cramped, which means people choose to come to The Colliery instead.

"The plans are very welcome and I fully support them. The big issue with most planning applications is usually traffic, but the road that leads round the centre also leads to Isthate Canno Community School and to Littleton Green Community School and can handle traffic.

"The additional rooms and parking

spaces would create little more traffic than there already is. I can see no problems from approving this application and I fully sup-port the plans to expand."

Young invited to

vote for best book

AN annual awards scheme co-ordinated by Stafford-shire County Council has reached a major milestone. Now in its 10th year the Young Teen Fiction Awards initiative is de-signed to encourage the signed to encourage the county's young people to enjoy reading books and share their enthusiasm with others.

Book lovers can nomi-nate their favourite reads for this year's six book

for this year's six book shortlist.

Nominations close Feb-ruary 13.
For more details go to www.staffordshire.gov.uk/ YTF.

Theatre date for grumpy old Rick

VETERAN rock musician Rick Wakeman is to pres-ent a one-man show in Li-chfield this month.

The former Yes key-board player and renowned Grumpy Old Man, will dis-play his virtuosity on the piano and recount anec dotes from his career.

Yet Another Evening with Rick Wakeman will be at the Garrick on January 17 at 7.30pm.

Tickets cost £28 and can be booked online at www lichfieldgarrick.com or by calling 01543 412121.

Action on police response times

AN urgent action plan has been drawn up after it emerged the length of time taken to respond to non-emergency calls by Staffordshire Police had almost doubled in the last

Bosses said the issue with 101 and 999 call hanwith 101 and 999 can handling was caused by staff-ing problems and workers moving into a new control room. A review will be carried out.

Law change plea on child cruelty

THE Children's Society calling for a change in the law to protect more than 600 vulnerable 16 and 17-year-olds in Stafford-shire from cruelty – includ-ing sexual exploitation. While most English law

while most English law treats anyone under the age of 18 as a child, the criminal law for child cru-elty protects children only until their 16th birthday.

Budget discussion

SOUTH Staffordshire cussed by its cabinet on Tuesday at 2pm in Com-mittee Room 2, the meeting will be at the Council Offices in Codsall.

Property tycoon back with new real estate company

CHASE property tycoon Fred Pritchard has come out of retirement to launch a new real estate company.

When the group which bears his name went into administration two years ago, with debts running into millions of pounds, the 72-year-old entrepreneur announced that he was retiring from running his Hadronford back comparing interests his Hednesford-based commercial interests.

Records are smashed on deliveries

APC Overnight witnessed unprecedented demand in the lead-up to Christmas, successfully processing 166,092 parcels in 24 hours.

166,092 parcels in 24 hours. The figure for December 15 marks the highest number of parcels processed in one day in the company's 20-year history. Millions of parcels made their way through APC Overnight's national sortation centre in Cannock last month.

To cope with the demand,

month.

To cope with the demand,
APC Overnight had installed two new sky sorters
and added 45 double-deck
trailers to its fleet.

Meanwhile, Cannockbased Eds Couriers dealt
with a record-breaking
number of parcels in a 24hour period on December
16.

16.
It received 1,877 parcels It received 1,877 parcels for delivery, with bosses claiming there had been a significant increase compared to last year. It processed more than 2,781 deliveries in 24 hours.

Managing director Andy Evans said: "It's great to be providing such an impor-tant service to so many local businesses in Cannock."

mercial interests.

But he has now returned to business with Anglesey Real Estate Ltd – snapping up multi-storey office complex Virage Point.

He built the development in Bridgtown as part of the Pritchard Group Plc which he set up but no longer owns. He says that within six weeks the previously half empty business centre in Walsall Road is fully let. It is now the base for An-

It is now the base for An It is now the base for Anglesey Real Estate Ltd that has brand new proposals to develop around 100 flats available to rent at sites across the Cannock Chase district to tackle demand for new homes in the area.

Sold

Sites in Queen Street and Wolverhampton Road, Cannock; North Street and Broad Street, Bridgtown; and Market Street, Hednes-ford, have been earmarked for the development.

Mr Pritchard said: "I retired out of the group three years ago. It went into administration and the group was sold on by the company that owns the land.
"I was in my late 60s at the time and thought it was a good time to retire. I let the bank and the people who bought the loan book, Lloyds, do their own thing. "There is nothing mysterious about that. I have come back because I feel we have a mission to complete with regard to the residential crisis in the district." Mr Pritchard said: "I re

Hannah takes pride in Lions success



From left, last year's district winner Christopher Phillips, district governor Lion Carole Godden, bursary winner Hannah Telles, Lions member Maria Tucker and Lions president Beverley Stanyer

HANNAH Telles of Chase Terrace has won a prestigious Lions Club Interna-tional competition.

The competition is run each year by the Lions Clubs to acknowledge the good work put into the community by some very special young people in the 16-19 age group.

Hannah was judged ahead of the other Lions club winners in the dis-trict, particularly for her work in-volving the Stephen Sutton Teenage Cancer Trust charity.

Hannah also helps teach drama and dance to young schoolchildren, and has been helping the Lions in some of their activities.

Her mother Maria, who is a member of Cannock Lions, said she 'couldn't be more proud' of her daughter and added: "How nice it was to see the teenagers getting praise for what they do instead of the often quoted cri-

Hannah will receive a £500 bursary towards her chosen charitable project

in the coming months. She will now compete against 12 other district win-ners in the British Isles and Ireland. This will take place at the Village Hotel Dudley in February.

Voluntary

If anyone knows a youngster in the Chase area who does a lot of good voluntary work in the community and would like to consider entering next year's competition, they can contact Cannock Lions on 0845 333 4967.



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ANOTHER Christmas, and more angry customers finding that the 'Winter Wonderland' theme parks do not quite live up to expectations.

Llewelyn-Bower Laurence Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen found himself subject to the ire of an army of angry mothers after his Magical Journey in Sutton Coldfield turned out to be more grotty than grotto. Not only was Santa handing out duff presents, his allow work too huy purified. his elves were too busy puffing away on cigarettes to other wrapping them up. And that was when they were not called into action to push the magical mystery train up the hill every time it broke down.

Still, it could have been worse. Still, it could have gone to the Yorkshire Winter Wonderland which, judging from the pictures, looked more like an abandoned PoW camp with a few tailors' dummies thrown in to lighten the mood.

mood.
Unsurprisingly, both attractions have closed, leaving behind a number of angry customers, but you have to wonder what people really expect. As with all of these attractions, customers. with all of these attractions, customers are asked to buy into a fantasy land in a far-off corner of the universe that does not really exist. Do they really think it is going to be created in temporary exhibition at a golf course in the exhibition at a gon course in the West Midlands, or an exhibition hall in Harrogate, for £22.50 a head? Old Laurence really should have known better than getting involved.

The thing is, children can often take pleasure in the simplest

The thing is, children can orten take pleasure in the simplest of things, and there really is no need to splash out on some overblown commercialised mini-theme park to keep them entertained over Christmas.

But, of course, it is far harder to please the overgrown children.

But, of course, it is far harder to please the overgrown children, the adults. No wonder cynical companies, with an eye on the bottom line, try to exploit these child-like yearnings. And no wonder it always ends in tears

00000

MIND you, while I'm all for looking back at the days when Christmas was a simpler, less commercial affair, I do think the

Christmas was a simpler, less commercial affair, I do think the main television companies might be taking things a bit far this Christmas.

Look, I've got nothing against repeats, even if I do think the ubiquitous showings of Morecambe & Wise, or Only Fools and Horses, are overdone, and whisper it quietly, a bit over-rated. Eric and Ernie were okay, but give me Mike Yarwood anyday.

But this year Channel Five is truly distinguishing itself, with Chas & Dave's Xmas Knees Up—from 1982 – forming the centrepiece of its prime-time Christmas Day schedule. And they're not just showing it once. If, for some reason, you find yourself washing your hair on Christmas night, they are repeating it again on Sunday.

A repeat of a repeat, then. And let's face it, one that wasn't much cop Long, Long Ago.





Hotworker Alan Hale with his baby daughter Evie



Shaun's hobby is rockabilly music

Hammering home a different side

These are metal workers but not as you know them as an exhibition illustrates. **CHARLIE BENTON reports**

FROM breeding bullfinches to rock climbing - the private lives of metal workers of the Black Country are being explored in

a new exhibition.

Artist Luke Perry has got behind to some of the people helping to keep the region's industrial heritages align.

keep the region's industrial heritage alive.

The Behind the Hammer exhibition has been created as part of the Black Country Echoes festival and focuses on hot-workers and chainmakers at Solid Swivel, based in Cradley Heath.

Mr Perry said: "I am traditionally a public monument sculptor, that is what I am known for, but when Black Country Echoes approached me for this piece they were very loose in their brief.

Contrasts

"They wanted something that explored Solid Swivel as a company, but they said I should just do it in a way that I find interesting."

Mr Perry, who admits he had not done much photography at all since university, decided it was the best way to convey the lives of the metalworkers.

The photographic pieces, which were hung on the library carousels, each use

one of the workers at the company as a subject, but contrasts their private lives

subject, but contrasts their private lives at home with their work.

He explained: "There is an opinion from people that if you work in a factory that is kind of all you do – as in you go off to work, you hit something with a hammer and then you go back home again, and there is no depth.

"I have seen the other side of it now



Luke Perry has launched an exhibition of some of his work

they are botanists or they speak mul-tiple languages, and they have great depths of personality and that is something I have always wanted to explore

in a project.

"Public artwork, big sculptures and such, don't really lend themselves to a matter as intimate as that whereas photography does."

Mr Perry is the son of Graham Perry,

the managing director of Solid Swivel,

who also features in the exhibition.

The Solid Swivel company has been

and a lot of these people go home and in the Perry family for more than a

Mr Perry added: "I chose five different people who I thought were a good example of what they do at work, but also had a really interesting and often a very contrasting extra-curricular life. "I tried to show as a catalyst to un-

derstanding this idea that people can be different, and have more depth than it might seem at first.

"I tried to show that by taking two photographs – one of them at work and one of them doing what it is they do at

home. All of the materials used to create the prints, from the paper to the metal used in the frames, were found in the Black Country.

Mr Perry said that although some of the metal workers were unsure of being involved originally, they were very accommodating.

"All of them were a little nervous about having their photos taken but

"All of them were a little nervous about having their photos taken but they were very trusting and kind," Mr Perry said.

"Their jobs require a lot of concentration, which meant they could not focus on what I was doing too much anyway which was very helpful. A lot of them were every welcoming, inviting me to their house, they were very kind."

Mr Perry said that people who visit the exhibition will be surprised by the contrasting lives of the workers featured.

"One of the subjects, Alan, is a hot-worker, so his job requires a great deal of physical strength, but outside of work he is a dad of three, a very sensitive fa-ther, and it is all very lovely to watch.

Delicate

"Alan also makes these very delicate

little cakes.
"A lot of people might think that forgers come into work, then go home to walk their Staffordshire Bull Terriers and drink, and that is just not what it is like – he is a very modern man in many

ways.
"Steve, a chainmaker, is another subject. His work is so hot and dangerous and he uses huge 40-ton presses, and then he goes home and he breeds bull-

"When you go into the aviary you have to be so quiet and calm and subtle in the way you measure out the liquids. All of the subjects are surprising.

"My father was the most surprising though, to look at him now you wouldn't think he was a mountaineer."

think he was a mountaineer."

The exhibition will remain at Cradley
Heath Library for several months.

WEEK IN POLITICS

with Daniel Wainwrigh

THE picture of David Cameron flanked by the Chelsea Pensioners on the front of his greeting card was not exactly something that screamed 'It's Christmas', Noddy Holder style.

What it did attempt to convey was a sense of British pride. If there was a subtle hint in there for next year it might be that he wants everyone to think he's the one with whom Britain and all its

wants everyone to think he's the one with whom Britain and all its great institutions are safe rather than Ed Milliband.
Certainly he is trying to ram home the message that a vote for UKIP would just let Labour back into Downing Street.
That message doesn't seem to have come up to the Black Country; or if it has people seem perfectly happy with that.
A poll by Tory peer Lord Ash-croft made for bleak reading for the Conservatives as it showed them in a distant third place in Dudley North. The seat is one of the key marginals the Tories failed to win in 2010 when they ended up having to settle for a

railed to Win in 2010 when they ended up having to settle for a coalition with the Lib Dems.
So on the one hand, David Cameron's argument that voting UKIP just lets Labour in makes UNIP just lets Labour in makes sense. If we were to do as Labour wants, which is to just see UKIP as 'more Tory than the Tories', then the polls suggest support for the two parties added together would be greater than Labour. Labour.

Difference

As a result, people voting UKIP As a result, people voting UKIP would get the absolute opposite of what they want – a party that doesn't want a referendum on the EU. The argument does not hold water though. Sitting Labour MP Ian Austin does want a referendum and will tell anyone who asks him so. Also, UKIP loves to point out it takes votes off Labour as well. But it's more than that. UKIP has made little scret of the view that it does not see any

But it's more than that.

UKIP has made little secret of the view that it does not see any difference between the Tories and Labour. Deputy leader Paul Nuttall calls them 'two cheeks on the same backside' while Nigel Farage has said he'd do a 'deal with the devil' in return for the referendum. In short 'vote UKIP, get Miliband' means nothing to them.

UKIP will be quite happy getting some MPs elected and then making various demands in return for their support on key votes. Britain does not do presidential elections like the US, however much Tony Blair might have liked it if we did.

have liked it if we did

have liked it if we did.
When people go to the polls
in May they are not voting for a
choice between Cameron, Miliband, Clegg, Farage or Howling
Laud Hope of the Monster Raving Loony Party.
They are choosing their local MP. Of course that's always
been the case. It just seemed
a little less so when it was a
straight choice between one
party or the other.

party or the other.

The coalition has changed

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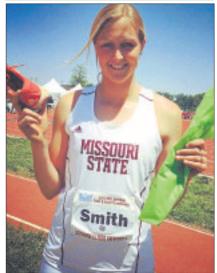
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Thursday, January 1, 2015

Gemma makes the running on course



Gemma Smith after her last competition for Missouri State University at the NCAA Conference championships

State University at the NCAA Conference championships
A FORMER student of Kingsmead High School has graduated from Missouri State University in Psychology and Criminology. Gemma Smith, a talented athlete from Hednesford, went to the United States in 2010 on a full athletics scholarship after a highly successful athletics career. Her ability as an athlete was recognised by the teachers at Kingsmead and she was recommended to the Cannock and Stafford Athletics club where sherepresented her school, club, county and eventually was selected for England in her favoured event, the triple jump.
Her talents were spotted by coaches from US universities and she received several offers of scholarships.
She eventually chose Missouri State University and moved there in 2010. During her time at Missouri State she represented the university at meetings throughout the US in the highly competitive NCAA in all of the jumping events and was part of the Missouri Valley Conference winning team in 2012. Gemma plans to stay and live in the US and will be moving to St Louis in the new year.

Anniversary couple had rings taken in burglarv

A BURGLAR who stole a pensioner's wedding and engagement rings the week before she and her husband celebrated their golden wedding has been jailed for a year.

Ashley Lawton, who is from Burntwood but has no fixed address, ransacked a bedroom and forced open a bureau at the couple's home in Hammerwich.
Along with the woman's rings, the 28-year-old heroin

By Marion Brennan

rings, the 28-year-old heroin addict also took a Victorian watch that belonged to her grandmother.
Stafford Crown Court heard how he pawned the lot for £200 to buy drugs.
At the time, Lawton was out of jail on licence for breaking into his own mothers, and the staff of the court of of the cour er's house in Burntwood.

Refused

He pleaded guilty to bur-ing the anniversary cou-

gling the anniverself by the state of the st ple's bungalow.
Judge Mark Eades told
him: "You went to your
mother's to try and cajole
from her more money and
she refused you.
"You walked then into

Hammerwich, came to this bungalow, went inside and focused in on easily disposable property. That turned out to be of great senti-

mental value." In a victim impact statement, the wife said: "The items are very personal. It's that value and not the financial value that hurts"

Mr Robert Edwards pros Mr Robert Edwards, prosecuting, said fingerprints and footprints were found at the scene. The fingerprints matched Lawton's and when he was arrested, his

footwear was similar to that which made the footprints. Judge Eades said: "He's done nothing to assist the owners in getting their property back."

Miss Siobhan Collins, de-fending, said: "He's been struggling since childhood with drug abuse.

"He is ashamed of what he did, clearly an irrespon-sible crime."



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MAY I just add a few things to the only 125 people against the gipsy sites, in regard to Coven Heath you have to take into consider-ation the locals who are af-fected

fected.

We had this a few years ago when the gipsies took over, the same piece of land and were thrown off by the

Council.
This is the same piece of land, we are now being told the council wants to give to the gipsies.

Chronic

The people who will be affected are nearly all semi-re-tired or retired and want a peaceful life in what was the countryside.

The reason people here have given up signing petitions is due to the petitions we had against the i54 site and we have just been pushed exide. pushed aside

We objected two years ago at the elections in Coven Heath by not voting.

I hope a lot of us vote with

ir feet next year. K PETTY Coven Heath

Most EU migrants come here to work

try.
This, among other things, rendered his speech vacuous and disingenuous not bring immigration down. as he portrayed EU migrants as a feckless drain on the British taxpayer. This jumped on a different, and more per-

DAVID CAMERON made a speech in the West Midlands regarding that well-discussed issue of immigration and, particularly, that of migration from the EU. His main announcement was a deportation of EU migrants who are not working after six months in the country.

This, among other things, rendered his speech vacuous and disingenuous not bright and the more an

Ed Miliband on the other hand has

working men and women.

P FRONDIGOUN

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Cannock Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

E-MAIL cannock.chron@ expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Pleased by poppy cash

CAN I most sincerely thank everyone for the interest CAN I most sincerely thank everyone for the interest shown in my handmade poppies again. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to my fundraising for the Royal British Legion raised by my hand crochet popies, the final total of which was £2,132.00 making a cumulative total of £7,332 for the past six years. I will again e crocheting poppies for 201

JACKIE LITTLEMORE ies for 2015; these will be a new design.

Attitude is causing a division

I DISAGREE with C Cooper about the plans for the rehab centre in Cannock being in the wrong place.

The proposed location in High Green is the perfect place to put these unfortunate people.

Hiding them away from society is not the answer. They are not seum, they have had an illness and need to complete their treatment. It is non-compassionate

It is non-compassionate

It is non-compassionate people who believe they should be pushed onto someone else's doorstep that is causing a selfish type of division in this country.

There are many reasons these people fell into drug addiction, and I believe the only way we can help these ex-addicts get back their self-esteem is by introducing them into the community for the duration of their treatment. treatment.

Unlike some, I have a cial conscience and would be happy to see them treated close to where I live. PAUL WITTON

Cannock

Three main parties ignore difference

reform to the distinction between limiting rants and migrants now the three main political parties refer to everyone, wherever they come from, as migrants. This is of course trying to make UKIP look like they are against all people coming into this country from anywhere. Immigrants are people who apply to our immigration services for permission to come and live here. They leave their own country from other parts of the world and apply fee Political College.

for British Citizenship (they emigrate to Great Britain).

Migrants are people from EU countries (Economical Migration) who can just walk into our country, they need no visa or citizenship applications and can just grab our jobs, benefits, social housing, school places and hospital beds free of charge putting a bigger strain on our infrastructure.

COUNCILLOR JOHN BERNARD

UKIP group leader, Cannock Chase District

Chance to try for spot on television quiz show

I AM currently overseeing the casting of contestants for the ITV game show Celebrity Squares. Hosted by stage and screen star Warwick Davis (Extras, Life's Too Short, Star Wars and the Harry Potter film series) the show will be returning to TV screens very soon for a second series. We've got a pretty fast turnaround – auditions start in January and last until February – and we're doing a nationwide tour. We've literally just opened applications so I'm keen to spread the word as quickly as possible as we'll be starting to call applicants soon. Anyone interested can email @September Films

DAVINIA RICHARDSON
September Films UK

September Films UK

Town centre ideal for a rehab centre

I FEEL compelled to respond to Councillor Bernard's com-

ments on the proposed rehab unit.

She says she sympathises with addicts but I think she will find that most addicts on the road to recovery are not asking for sympathy, rather for understanding, empathy and acceptance back into normal society. The town centre is a side of the form the best first back the same than the sam

and acceptance back into normal society. The town centre is an ideal place for rehabilitation to take place.

Certainly, with alcohol available so freely, surely it is preferable to be reintegrated to today's society, in a supportive and nurturing environment where there is someone available to provide professional support and mentorship.

Councillor Bernard states that she 'feels for the other than the control of the cont

people in town. This implies she would rather the residents of Cannock be surrounded by those in active addiction than those who choose to turn their lives around. I fear this is a rather blatant case of nimbyism on the councillor's part.

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Widow's anger over 'Mr Deceased' letter

I just got so upset straight away, then that turned to anger and now I don't know how to feel."

These are the words of Joan Derry who lost her husband Charlie two years ago to cancer, but has just received a letter addressed to 'Mr Deceased'.



Charlie Derry

The letter came from local car dealership Brindley Motors. It was a Christmas card with a leaflet for a £250 off offer attached.

Mrs Derry said: "I can't believe how this has gone through so many filters and yet somebody still felt it was the right idea to send it out." If it had said Mr Derry I could have handled that, that is an understandable mistake but

Mr Derry I could have handled that, that is an understandable mistake, but why the word deceased? It is just tasteless. I don't know how somebody could be so stupid," she said.

Mrs Derry said the couple bought a mobility car just before her husband's death, which she then had to pick up the payments on. She said she called the company to complain on a Friday. the company to complain on a Friday, but was told that no-one could speak to her until the Monday, so she de-



A widow's anger - Joan Derry with the letter addressed to 'Mr Deceased

cided to talk to someone face to face. "I wanted to speak to the manager, I was so angry. When I showed the letter to the girl at the front desk her face just

dropped," she added.

"She must have felt so embarrassed, but I wanted an explanation and I wanted an applicay."

but I wanted an explanation and I wanted an apology."
When she spoke to a senior member of staff, Mrs Derry was told she was not alone and that 35 letters had been sent out. "I was told I should have had an apology letter come through and that everyone who had got one of these letters would have too."

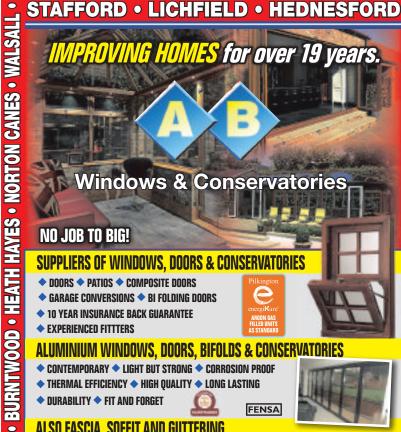
Brindley Motors' Chris Adams said: "We are deeply upset and we sincerely apologise to all of those who received one of these cards.

"We have just changed our internal computer system and unfortunately this was an error based on the difficul-

"Everyone affected will be getting a letter of apology from us and we started that process as soon as we were informed of what had happened."

"It must have been distressing to re-

ceive the card and again we sincerely



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helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as

Cloudy2Clear service

success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense

of effort is appreciated. So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people uotation on 0800 61 21 118 and



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Club cheers up patients
WYRLEY JUNIORS FC brought cheer to Birmingham
Children's Hospital following an appeal for presents. Matt
Love, manager of the Under-12s Panthers, and his son Alfie delivered almost 200 gifts to the renal unit. Alfie has
received ongoing treatment from the hospital and it was
his family's wish for the children in the hospital to receive
presents and for the ward to have new toys for patients to
take their minds off their health difficulties. Matt said: "It
was a great day and they are so hanny with the presents was a great day and they are so happy with the presents There will be smiles all round for poorly children."

Workplace advice for victims of home abuse

Rugeley are being urged to help workers who suffer abuse at home by signing up to a programme which will be launched this month.

The workplace programme will be launched at breakfast events at Drayton Manor on January 12 and the Britannia Stadium, Stoke on Trent, on January 12 and the Britannia Stadium, Stoke on Trent, on January 12 and 12 and 13 and 14 and 15 and 15

and the Britannia Stadium, Stoke on-Frent, on Jan-uary 14. Businesses can register for the events now. Specialist training will be delivered by Staffordshire Women's Aid for a nomi-nated individual from each business that joins the pro-

Organisations who sign up to the programme – at no cost to themselves – will no cost to themselves — will commit to taking steps to support staff in abusive re-lationships and make sure victims are aware that help is available. Managers will be encour-aged to spot tell-tale signs of abuse and give practical and confidential support to staff.

Impact

The British Crime Survey found here were an estimated 12.9 million incidents of domestic violence against women each year against wollen each year and 2.5 million against men. Meanwhile, such crime is es-timated to cost the economy £23 billion a year including £1.7bn for employers alone.

£1.7bn for employers alone.
The programme is being
spearheaded by Staffordshire's deputy Police and
Crime Commissioner Sue
Arnold, who met representatives from Staffordshire
businesses, Staffordshire
Women's Aid, local authortities, Staffordshire Police
and Staffordshire Fire and
Rescue Service to formally
agree the policy. agree the policy. She said: "Domestic abuse

has a devastating impact on victims and can affect the whole of their lives – includ-

ing their work. Victims are likely to suffer in silence for a long time before talking to a long time before talking to anyone about what they are going through. However, managers and colleagues at work may notice changes in their behaviour – such as problems with concentration, anxiety, dips in work quality, regularly arriving late or leaving early – which could signal abuse at home. "By signing up, businesses will go public with their commitment to tachling domestic abuse and show a clear commitment to supporting staff who are victims in a sensitive way. "These two launch events are a great opportunity for

These two launch events are a great opportunity for businesses to come and find out more about the high-quality training that Staffordshire Women's Aid will offer." will offer.

Staffordshire Women's Aid has been supporting vic-tims of domestic and sexual violence since 1976.

Its chief executive Dickie
James said: "The project
will ensure that those who
are suffering from domestic
abuse will be able to access
information and support
within the workplace to improve their safety at the earliest possible stage." Go to www.staffordshire-pcc. gov.uk/domestic-abuse/

Advice pack will help elderly stay

AN information pack has been launched to help older people keep warm and well in their homes during win-

tertime. The Keep Warm it's Winter pack includes leaflets from a host of organisations that offer information on enkeeping active and commu-nity meals. The leaflets also give advice on money and debt, home adaptations and

debt, home adaptations and looking out for neighbours, as well as where to go for more help.
Councillor Colin Greatorex, Lichfield District Council's cabinet member for Community, Housing & Health, said: "Older people

are especially vulnerable to the cold weather, and this pack has useful information to help local people to live in their homes more comforta-bly throughout the winter."

Through its Warmer Homes, Greener District initiative, the council has included a leaflet to remind

included a leaflet to remind residents of its free energy advice service.

The Keep Warm it's Winter pack is free and available on request from the council's Frog Lane reception.

They are also available at a number of GP surgeries, pharmacies and from compunity groups across the

munity groups across the district. For energy saving advice call 0800 677 1543.

Huge rewards from 'small' initiative



Going local – celebrating at the Bridge House Hotel, Penkridge, are Councillors John Raven, Christine Raven and Janet Johnson, with Rajan Dhanda, and Councillors Isabel Ford and Bob McCardle

BUSINESSES in South Staffordshire have been celebrating a successful Small Business Saturday campaign. South Staffordshire Council's sec-ond annual initiative encouraged peo-ple to shop locally and use their local businesses

The scheme centres on the idea of taking one day of the year to encourage consumers to 'shop small' and celebrate local businesses, in the hope

celebrate local businesses, in the hope that their support will then continue into the future. Following a hugely successful cam-paign in 2013 that saw more than 80 local firms involved, local traders

across the district got involved again.

Local shops put on special events, offered discounts and encouraged as many people as possible to shop lo-

cally. Local district councillors were also challenged to shop local for the day, with many of them getting out and about, visiting local businesses and encouraging others to come and support their local businesses.

support their local businesses. It is estimated that if every one of South Staffordshire's 93,000 residents aged 16 and over spent £10 in a local small business, this would generate nearly £1 million for the local econ-

Councillor Brian Edwards, leader of South Staffordshire Council, said: "All in all, it was a brilliant day for local businesses.

"In my local area of Kinver, I was especially pleased to see so many people making the effort to visit their local shops and support them. Supporting

local businesses is incredibly impor-tant – they often offer services and products that you can't find in some bigger outlets, so it's always worth checking out your local shops.

"It is essential that we help our local businesses as much as possible, as often they are the lifeblood of our villages.

Ideas

"The event may have been for just one day, but we are hoping people will continue to support their local businesses in the long term."

For more information on the campaign, to sign up for the 2015 campaign and get ideas on how to support small businesses, visit www.sstaffs. gov.uk/sbs

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Stylish cards catch the eye of judges



Some of the card design competition winners who were presented with gift vouchers

CREATIVE youngsters from across the Cannock Chase district have been rewarded for their talent after win-

rewarded for their talent after winning an art competition.

A total of 16 lucky youngsters were presented with gift vouchers after taking part in a Christmas card art competition. The designers, aged up to 16, were asked to get out their pencils and paints this festive season to design their own Christmas card.

Competition organisers Bescot Promotions and Cannock and Rugeley Indoor Market Traders received hundreds of entries and 16 were chosen for first and runner-up prizes.

The traders joined forced to organise the competition following the success of the Easter art competition earlier in the year.

success of the Easter are compensate earlier in the year.

The winning youngsters attended

a celebration event where they were presented with their prizes, which included a chocolate trophy and Argos

vouchers.
Councillor Diane Todd. Portfolio Leader for Town Centre Regeneration, said: "We had a substantial amount of entries for this competition and the standard was really high.

standard was really high.

"We certainly have some talented artists in the Cannock Chase district. It was a pleasure to work with the markets and promote our town centres and local children."

The winning artwork along with other entries was put on display in Rugeley Indoor Market and the shop entrance to Cannock Indoor Market.

David Habarnathy market manager

David Habernathy, market manager for Bescot Promotions, said: "On be-half of Bescot Promotions, thank you

to all those who entered, it has been a pleasure working with the council and the local community. We look forward to delivering future competitions next

The winner of the under-fives category was Maisie Reay and Nathan Davies, Jack Callum Meek and Hayden

Feltham were runners-up. Cody Jellyman came first in the five

cody Jeilyman came first in the five to eight-year-old category and run-ners-up were Toni Clifton-Cox, Mason Goodwin-Newman and Millie Wason. The winner of the nine to 11-year-old category was Anisha Sey and the runners-up were Millie Jones and Ciara Hill.

In the 12-16 age group, the winner was Jodie Grice and the runners-up were Morgan Brown, Conner Matthews and Katie Anne Palmer.



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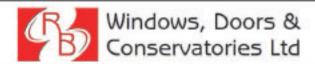
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COMPETITION

Giving French flavour to a Capital treat

OLYMPIA in London is the place to be for a flavour of France in January! The Chronicle series is delighted to offer its readers a chance to win a su-

offer its readers a chance to win a super package for two people to attend the show and have a fabulous one night overnight stay in the chic Hilton London Olympia Hotel.

Not only that but the lucky winner will also have breakfast included at the Hilton, lunch at The France Show and admittance to a wine seminar included in the prize. This amounts to a prize value of around £300. Five lucky runner ups will receive a pair of tickets of the show worth £16 pounds.

The Hilton London Olympia hotel is on bustling Kensington High Street, a five-minute walk from the Olympia Exhibition Centre and is surrounded by a lively mix of shops and restaurants.

The France Show takes place January 23-25 and you may choose any night to stopover between January 22-25 inclusive (subject to availability). At The France Show you will enjoy cookery demonstrations from top French chefs, Michel Lemoine and Franck Raymond, listen to bestselling author Carol Drinkwater, sample fine wines and champagne, visit the French market, pick up holiday ideas, play a game of petanque and enjoy the live entertainment!

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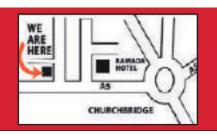
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Dietician a new face on wards

A NEW dietician has been appointed to work with patients on mental health wards in Staffordshire.

South Staffordshire and Shropshire South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust has appointed Nicola Howle to the post. Nicola has worked for the NHS for five years in a range of in-patient and community services. She has a particular interest in mental health and is a member of the British Dietetic Association Mental Health Group.

Nicola is also a committee member of the

British Dietetic Association specialist group Nutrition Advisory Group for Older People. She will be supporting groups for service users and carers looking at healthy eating, meal planning, cooking and shopping.

"I am aiming to ensure all our service users have the highest nutritional standards," Nicola said.

"I will be working as part of the ward teams and with our catering services to develop individual care plans or whole ward nutrition strategies."

March

March.

Activities will be staged in the craft workshop at the museum, and will then be taken out into the community. They will include making pegged hearts in the rag rug tradition and willow weaving.

veaving. There will also be themed

sessions about toys and games from the past and music of the 20th Century when participants will have the chance to play instruments with a musician reministry about times can but

niscing about times gone by **Awareness** Councillor Adamson said: "I am delighted to support

the museum in helping to make Hednesford a demen-tia friendly town. We all need to work together to achieve this." For details about the ses-

sions, contact the museum on 01543 877666 or email museumofcannockchase@

vlct.org To find out more about

To find out more about the museum, go to www. wlct.org/cannock
Meanwhile, a new Health-care branch in Cannock is making strides to help the town become dementia-friendly by working with the local shopping centre on an awareness drive in the lead-up to Christmas.
Dementia is a key focus

Dementia is a key focus for the new Co-operative

Museum wi play a role in dementia care

teractive sessions for people with dementia, thanks to a £1,000 donation from county councillors.

nation from county councillors.

Councillor George Adamson and Councillor Christine Mitchell each gave £500 from Staffordshire County Council's Local Community Fund to help with the funding for the project. Susan Dalloe, museum services manager, said: "We are delighted to have received this funding, which will allow us to deliver these worthwhile sessions for local people with dementia and their carers."

New product brings be added that it gave people a chance to spend their leisure time together, learn new skills and generally improve their wellbeing. The sessions, developed in partnership with local carers' organisations CASS and MASE, will take place between November and March.



From left, Mike Lord, chairman of the British Healthcare Trades Association, Tiffany Clowes, Fabio De Rosa, Russel Simms, Mike Sheen, all of RGK, and TV presenter Bill Turnbull

Simms, Mike Sheen, all of RGK, and TV presenter Bill Turnbull A BURNTWOOD-BASED company which makes bespoke wheelchairs has won two national awards for its commitment to helping users live more independent lives.

RGK Wheelchairs was presented with two awards at the British Healthcare Awards 2014. The company won the Highly Commended award in the Best Product/Service Innovation category for its latest chair, the TIGA FX.

The TIGA FX was designed to revolutionise the way people travel as it is standard procedure for airlines to put all wheelchairs into the baggage hold of a plane, which can result in chairs being damaged and lost.

The wheelchair folds into a briefcase shape which can easily fit into the overhead compartment. It also fits into the boot of a car, giving families more freedom to travel.

the boot of a car, giving families more freedom to travel.

The company also won the Best Marketing Campaign award for the chair's launch. The ceremony was held in London, and Russel Simms, RGK's commercial director, said: "This is a true honour for all of us at RGK."

new voices

Pick up a registration form from Lichfield Garrick's box

office or call the theatre on 01543 412121 or visit www. lichfieldgarrick.com.

Healthcare branch in Mar-ket Hall Street, following the increased spotlight placed on the disease by the NHS and support groups. Choir needs Groups are urged to ask for grants

YOUNG singers are being sought for a new choir in Staffordshire. The Lichfield Garrick is The Lichfield Garrick is inviting youngsters aged between 11-18 to join its youth choir in the new year.

Choir practise will take place each week on Tuesday from 4.15pm to 6pm, starting on January 6.

Membership is £50 a term, which covers 12 rehearsals.

Community groups and organisations are being urged to apply for a small grant provided by Lichfield District Council. Through its Grant Aid scheme, the council is offering groups funding of up to £1,000 to help finance a project, buy equipment, host an event or provide specialist training. The grants are available to local not-for-profit groups and need to be applied for before February 1. Applicants will find out if they will receive funding in April 2015. Cabinet member Councillor Colin Greatorex said: "We're once again pleased to offer groups that provide a service to the local community the chance to apply for a small grant, which we know helps fund some really valuable projects." Funding of up to £5,000 is also available through Grant Aid Plus, a scheme that awards funding to projects which strongly impact on the council's ambitions and aimed at people across the whole district. For details and to apply, visit www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/grantaid or call 01543 308170.

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Introducing, a big year ahead for singer Arran

songwriter is following in the footsteps of such artists as Jake Bugg and Ed Sheeran

- by being featured as a BBC Introducing act.

Arran Page, described by one critic as Johnny Depp with a guitar, has featured on the nationwide search for a new musical tal-ent, appearing on Radio WM and finding 'All I Ask' – the debut sin-gle from his Taking Time album –

gie from his Taking Time album—on the corporation's play list.

The 24-year-old multi-instrumentalist has also find air time on the Birmingham station Big City radio.

It could lead to a big year for the
musician. Follow-up single Young And
Dumb will be released in January,
with the video to be shot early in the
new year. new year.

Perform

A number of festivals have also been lined up, including Deerstock in Nottingham. Closer to home, fans can see Page perform at the Tackeroo in Hednesford on January 10.

He also found time to post a video for a festive song on the internet. The Best Time of the Year describes the romanticism of Christmas.

romanticism of Christmas.
But, while there are the obvious comparisons with the likes of Sheeran and Ben Howard, whose material is of a similar genre, Page is adamant his music is that matters the most and could see him make the breakthrough.
"The industry needs someone that is a little more natural and organic, or a sethetic" he said.
"I like to write music that leaves people thinking and I like it that two

people thinking and I like it that two



Taking Time, the debut album by Cheslyn Hay musician Arran Page

people can listen to one of my songs

and give a very different opinion."

Page, first spotted by a record label, busking on the streets of Cannock, is aided and abetted by pals Jack Stuart on drums and Matt Jones, backing singer and pianist.

He was described by one reviewer as having "a distinctive voice and

heartfelt well-crafted songs, \dots and with his Van Dyck beard, a passing resemblance to Johnny Depp" a com-parison that Page himself would have

no qualms with.

"I think it's the glasses and goatee,"
he said. "But there are worse people to
be compared with and he does play the
guitar so I have no problem with that."

www.normandaviestv.co.uk

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Great Wyrley Wesley Methodist Church Hall Great Wyrley 5.30pm & 7.30pm Ring Kierston: 07824 665600

Norton Canes Methodist Church Hall Poplar Street, Norton Canes 6.30pm Ring Liz: 07721 697140

Penkridge Haling Dean Centre Cannock Road, Penkridge

7.00pm Ring Mandy: 07956 538346

Rugeley
Rugeley Rose Theatre
Taylors Lane, Rugeley
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Ring Rachei: 07807 785600
Heath Hayes
Heath Hayes Primary School
Wimblebury Road, Heath Hayes
7.00 pm

Hammerwich Hammerwhich Community Centre Hall Lane (Opposite Post Office) 6.30 pm Ring Suzi: 07506 231475

7.00 pm Ring Lisa: 07723 606393

Cannock

Cannock
Avon Business & Com Centre
Jack Holsten Suite, Avon Road,
Cannock (next to Asda)
10am *Morning Group*
Ring Anne: 07410 977208

Cannock
NEW VENUE FROM 5th JANUARY
St Stephen's Church
Bideford Way, Cannock
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Ring Gill: 07958 000554

Cannock NEW VENUE FROM 6th JANUARY Littleton Green Community School Stafford Road, Cannock

7pm Ring Rose: 07837 088159

Burntwood Chase Terrace Technology College Bridgecross Road, Burntwood 5.30pm Ring Maria: 07817 308631

Ring Mana. 6/77 63655.

Brereton
Cedar Tree Hotel,
110 Main Road,
Brereton, Rugeley
3.30pm & 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Ring Emma: 07969 865624

Heath Hayes Heath Hayes Primary School Wimblebury Road, Heath Hayes 7.00 pm

7.00 pm Ring Lisa: 07723 606393 **Hednesford** Our Lady of Lordes Catholic Church,

Uxbridge Street, Hednesford Ring Lindsay: 07989 962061

WEDNESDAY

Cheslyn Hay Salem Methodist Church High Street, Cheslyn Hay Ring Julie: 07792 762144

Bridgtown

Bethel Methodist Church Union Street, Bridgtown, Cannock Ring Gill: 07958 000554

Burntwood

Chase Terrace Technology College Bridgecross Road, Burntwood 7.00 pm Ring Maria: 07817 308631

Hednesford NEW CONSULTANT*

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Ring Lindsay: 07989 962061

weight loss



Penkridge St. Michaels First School Market Place, Penkridge 7.00pm Ring Mandy: 07956 538346 Hednesford

Pve Green Community Centre

Bradbury Lane, Pye Green 9.30am *Morning group* Ring Rose: 07837 088159 THURSDAY

Avon Business & Com Centre The Chase Suite Avon Road, Cannock

(next to Asda) 6.30pm Open Tues 30th instead of Thurs 1st Jan Ring Jan: 07939 001558

Cheslyn Hay Cheslyn Hay Village Hall

Pinfold Lane, Cheslyn Hay 5.30pm & 7.30pm Ring Julie: 07792 762144 Hednesford

Aquarius Ballroom Victoria Street, Hednesford, Cannock 3.30 & 5.30pm & 7.30pm Ring Gill: 07958 000554

Rugeley Brereton & Ravenhill Parish Hall Bavenhill Park, Main Road, Brereton, Rugeley 9.45am *Morning Group* Ring Rachel: 07807 785600

Chasetown Chasetown Methodist Church, Lawnswood Avenue, Chasetown 7.30pm Ring Rachel: 07889 882086

SATURDAY

Cannock St Lukes Church Hall Church Street, Cannock 10am *Morning Group* Ring Fina: 07530 165049

Burntwood 1st Chase Terrace Scout Group, Ironstone Road, Burntwood 8.00am & 10.00am

Ring Liz: 07721 697140





visit the website to read Jess's story

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Applications submitted

Council include:
54 Upper Way, Upper Longdon: Creation of pitched roofs on existing flat roof dormers.

on existing har roof dormers.

154 Ogley Hay Road, Burntwood: Two-storey rear extension to form kitchen, bedrooms and en suite.

Former Burntwood Service Station, Lichfield Road,

Burntwood: Retention of storage container associated with existing car wash/valet business (temporary consent).

Observations must be received by Monday, January 5.

Two-jobs ambulance boss faces £50k cut

THE under-fire boss of West Midlands Ambulance Service is to see his pay fall by £50,000 next year when he steps down from his sec-

ond job running another health trust.

Anthony Marsh's salary came in for heavy criticism after it was revealed he was on £232,000 a year _ £90,000 more than the Prime Minister – for splitting his week between the West Midlands and the East of England Ambu-

lance Service Trust.

Now it has emerged the dual role will end almost a year earlier than planned as the East of England trust will begin looking for a permanent chief executive in January.

manent chief executive in January.
When that happens, the £50,000 a year pay 'uplit'.
Mr Marsh was given will end, and he will revert to working full-time for the West Midlands trust.
East of England Ambulance Service said Mr Marsh would stay in post until his

would stay in post until his successor was appointed and that the process would begin in January 2015.

Answering

Answering

He has faced heavy criticism both for his pay and costs as well as splitting his week between two high-profile roles.

West Midlands Ambulance Service justified the arrangement saying it cost taxpayers less than two chief executives and that Mr Marsh worked constantly while in his taxi, answering all his own emails.

West Midlands Ambulance Service also leases Mr Marsh a Range Rover Sport at a cost of £12,106.32 a year. Junior health minister Dan Poulter called the pay 'obscene'.

West Bromwich East MP Tom Watson said: "We have



Anthony Marsh

an ambulance service reporting that it is severely stretched.

"At least now we should have an ambulance chief executive who commits his time entirely to the West Midlands. There was an extraordinary cost associated with ferrying Mr Marsh around the country and hopefully this will now come to an end."

nopertury this will now come to an end."
Claire Brown, spokes-woman for West Midlands Ambulance Service, said: "The East of England Trust has announced that it is to core to require the service of the core of the service of the ser it is to start a recruitment process for a substantive chief executive position in the new year. That process is expected to take several months.

"Mr Marsh went to EEAS

at the beginning of January 2014 but has only ever been in an interim position."

Charity offering free chipping to dog owners

A CHARITY is offering free microchipping for dogs after receiving an award from the People's Postcode Lottery.

The Dogs Trust is making the offer the chipping after research showed that nationally 1,870,000 dogs are without a microchim

without a microchip.

The trust has received £175,000 from players of the People's Postcode Lottery, and the money will also help to pay for the wider care of more than 17,000 stray and

abandoned dogs helped by the charity each year. Microchipping is set to become compulsory for dogs across England in 2016 and the trust is offering the chipping in advance at its 20

rehoming centres for dogs across the country. Figures from the trust show there are an estimated 8.9 million dogs in the UK and 24 per cent of households now own

a dog.
Dogs Trust CEO Adrian
Burder said: "The funding
of £175,000 from players of of £175,000 from players of People's Postcode Lottery will not only help to ensure that more dogs can benefit from free microchipping, but will also go towards the wider care of over 17,000 stray and abandoned dogs at Dogs Trust every year."

For more information about the Dogs Trust's free

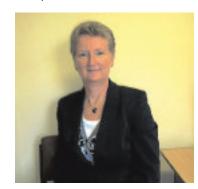
about the Dogs Trust's free chipping events, visit www chipmydog.org.uk



Chronicle Thursday, January 1, 2015

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Husband is reunited with memorial



Mark of respect - Derek Bennett, Colin Flay from Severn Trent Water and Jeff Lord from Amey

Mark of respect – Derek Benn A HUSBAND who created a special memorial on Cannock Chase to his wife after she died from cancer has been reunited with the lasting tribute. Retired landscape gardener Derek Bennett wrote a loving message on a concrete post to his late wife Fay, who died of breast cancer in 2000.

The post was situated in a spot where the pair used to regularly walk, and Mr Bennett visited it daily when his wife passed away. But when Severn Trent Water began to replace water pipes in the area, it had to be moved. Thankfully, bosses tracked 76-year-old Mr Bennett down and the memorial was moved and taken to his house. It now, takes pride of place in the

It now takes pride of place in the garden of his home in Stafford.

He said: "We used to walk up to the pumping station when Fay was ill and she would always lean on the

post when she got tired. When she died

post when she got tired. When she died I wanted to have a lasting memory of her up there so I wrote on the post.

"I also scattered some of her ashes up there. Ever since she died I have been going up to the same spot almost every day, even when I'm ill. One day a note was left on the memorial asking who it belonged to and if they could contact Severn Trent Water so I did."

For 14 years, the post was situated by the pumping station in Milford.

Mr Bennett wrote 'I love you Fay' on the post using a marker pen, along with his wife's date of birth and date of death. Mrs Bennett was 59 when she died. The pair had three children.

"Colin Flay, project manager for Amey, which is carrying out the work on Severn Trent Water's behalf, said: "It was obvious that this spot meant a lot to someone."

lot to someone.

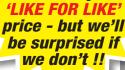


Fav Bennett died of cance

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Cast members, from left, Gillian Harker, Charles O'Neill and Laura Wilson at the premiere in Stafford

Chase was the perfect setting for horror film

CLAIMS of ghostly going-ons in Staffordshire have ranged from paranormal activity at a 16th Century eaterie to sightings of a spooky black-eyed child at a popular beauty spot.

It seems the perfect setting for a horror movie – and writer and director Iain McNamee certainly thought so. The Singing Bird Will Come had its premiere at Stafford Gatehouse Theatre.

And it is being shown at the Odeon in London's

Leicester Square this month ahead of its release, was filmed at locations across Staffordshire and Shrop-

Stafford's 16th Century Stafford's 16th Century Soup Kitchen, Oddfellows Hall, The Post House, Cou-ture nightclub and Cannock Chase all feature in the 95-minute independent psy-chological thriller, alongside a farmhouse and country-side in Shropshire.

Forced

It has previously been claimed that the Soup Kitchen, in Church Lane, has a ghost known as Ethel who moves objects, while there have been sightings of a mysterious black eyed child on Cannock Chase.

So it seems the perfect

child on Cannock Chase.

So it seems the perfect
setting for a horror movie
– and Stafford-based McNamee has done just that.

The film is about a girl
who is forced to return to
her hometown from London
after her mother's death
and the break-up of her relationship.

She takes a job as a night
cleaner in a restaurant—the

cleaner in a restaurant - the Soup Kitchen - but is trou-bled by the appearance of the ghost of a girl who dis-

appeared years ago.

A mystery unfolds around her, putting her in danger of meeting the same fate.



Gillian Harker in the film

The story is told through the eyes of Lauren, played by London actress Gillian Harker, who is part of a cast

of 17.
Auditions were held in
Stafford and London, with
160 actors and actresses initially applying for the parts.
Mr McNamee, who works

as a freelance in the film and

as a treelance in the lim and media industry, said it was the first feature length film he had made. The 43-year-old said his inspiration had been drawn from changes experienced in his own life and the death of

his father a few years ago.

He said: "The film is more psychological than hardcore orror." The film will be available

to buy via online platforms by February.

Mr McNamee said: "The

reaction to it has been pretty positive so far."

Order to move scrap vehicles

A USED CAR dealership in Bridgtown has been ordered to remove scrap cars it has been storing on a council

car park.

Aldridge Commercials, based in Progress Drive, has been told by Cannock Chase Council that it has until January 12 to stop putting 'end of life' vehicles on the car park – also in Progress Drive, an industrial area – and to remove any that are already being stored there.

and to remove any that are already being stored there. Councillor Eddie Smith, chairman of Bridgtown Par-ish Council, said: "Obviously this is a concern because it degrades the area. Progress Drive is an industrial area but there is no excuse for

them to use this car park in

that way."

After visiting the site earlier this month, officers from Cannock Council's environmental protection and licensing teams were promised by the company that all of the vehicles will be removed.

be removed.

No-one at Aldridge Commercials was available to comment but the firm's website states: "At Aldridge Commercials you can find a hand-picked selection of cuelity, provincesty owned." quality, previously-owned vehicles, from manufactur-ers such as Volkswagen, Ford, Renault and more all competitively priced and professionally presented."



<u>հասահաստոհաստիստահաստիստանատահաստիստահաստիստակաստիստակաստիստակաստիստակաստիստական անդա</u>

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A new seven-year contract safeguarding the Post Office card account has been welcomed by Gavin Williamson, MP for South Staffordshire.

The account ensures people without a bank account can receive their pensions and benefits in cash from the Post Office. Around 2.5 million people use the card account, which represents around 15 per cent of all benefit claimants and pensioners.
The previous card account contract was

The previous card account contract was due to expire in March this year which would have led to the withdrawal of the service. The new contract will safeguard the Post Office card account for pensioners and benefit claimants until at least 2022.

and benefit cialmants until at least 2022.

Mr Williamson said: "This announcement is fantastic news for post offices in South Staffordshire, especially those branches in Kinver, Enville and Bobbington that are in rural locations allowing them to remain open.

"It highlights the important role the Post Office continues to play ."

MP welcomes PO account deal Search begins for club to run council-owned playing fields

COUNCIL bosses have started their Report by Laura Blyth search to find a club or organisation to run popular playing fields in a Staffordshire village.

Hospital Road Playing Fields in Hammerwich are currently owned by Lichfield District Council and Hammerwich Parish

But both parties are keen to offload the day-But both parties are keen to offload the day-to-day running of the site to a local sports club or organisation.

Bosses hope the takeover will help promote sports participation for the people of Hammer-wich and Burntwood.

The site boasts five grass pitches, a modern four-team changing block which includes a kitchen and refreshment area, a large car park

and a play area that was opened in 2012. Councillor Andy Smith, Lichfield District Council's cabinet member for leisure, said: "We know Hospital Road Playing Fields is a much-loved and much-used resource by local people, which is why we're keen to find a club that not only manager the site well but that "will be the said."

is why we're keen to find a club that not only manages the site well, but that will boost sports participation in the area.

"It's really important the site remains open to all and we will only choose a club or organisation that agrees to keep public access to the fields unrestricted."

Councillor Vance Wasdell, chairman of Hammerwich Parish Council, said: "Generations of footballers have enjoyed playing on the fields

and we are hoping that a local club will be able to provide even more opportunities for children and young people to learn the game, and who knows, they may go onto become international players

The tenant will have to have local connec-The teliant will have to have local connections and will be expected to use Hospital Road Playing Fields to promote sporting and leisure opportunities for residents.

The closing date for applications is midday on

February 13.

February 13.

Regular users of the pitches include Burntwood Town FC, Chasetown FC including female and junior teams, Burntwood Star FC, The Swan FC, Boney Hay FC and Nelson FC. District council bosses are reviewing the parks, grounds and maintenance budget with a view to reducing their estate by transferring sites to solution or generations and community grounds. voluntary organisations and community groups.

Forum to fight child sex abuse

A new forum to investigate child exploitation in Staffordshire is to be set up.

The group will evolve from an existing partnership, made up of police, council and health staff, which was held up by Ofsted as an example of national best practice.

Councillor John Francis, chair of Staffordshire County Council's communities select committee, said: "The council, driven by this committee, is pursuing every avenue where we feel children may be sexually exploited.
"Our children's services department is

"Our children's services department is

"Our children's services department is working hard with all our partners, often in difficult circumstances, to combat child sexual exploitation.
"There is no complacency in Staffordshire about this issue, which is why our current partnership organisation, is evolving in the New Year."

The forum will be chaired by an assistant of the forum will be chaired by an assistant of the forum will be chaired by an assistant.

The forum will be chaired by an assistant chief constable from Staffordshire Police and aim to protect youngsters at risk of exploitation, including missing children, those who are trafficked, and children vulnerable to violence, and the influence of gangs.

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JCB's £4.5m engine deal
JCB has won one of the biggest engine supply deals in its
history after securing an annual contract worth around
£4.5 million.

It will supply Terey GB with engines to power site.

It will supply Terex GB with engines to power site

dumper trucks made at the firm's Coventry plant.

JCB, which has its world headquarters at Rocester, Staffordshire, is celebrating 10 years of engine manufacturing.

Its engines are made by JCB Power Systems in Derby-

JCB began producing engines in Foston in 2004.

Crackdown on cabbies in the wake of scandal

COUNCIL chiefs are planning to tighten regulations surrounding taxi drivers in the wake of the Rotherham child abuse scandal.

South Staffordshire Council wants to ensure peo ple with a criminal past are not allowed secure work in the area, while also keeping a closer eye on its li-censed drivers. Bosses said they were taking a tough-er stance to 'avoid any repetition of the Rotherham scandal'.

scandal?.

Part of the plan will see extra communication with the police so that the council is informed if a driver is arrested – even if the driver does not disclose his occupation.

Children's homes in the

Children's homes in the area will also be contacted and told how any concerns regarding taxi drivers can be flagged up.

After social services were criticised in a report into abuse in Rotherham, the council said its workforce would be given additional training on how to spot signs of child exploitation.

Concern

In August, an investigation into sexual exploitation in the South Yorkshire town revealed more than 1,400 children were abused between 1997 and 2013.

South Staffordshire Council said it was a concern that the report highlighted the role of taxi drivers being 'directly linked' to children who were abused.

who were abused.

In recent weeks, it said two potential drivers withdrew their applications to work in South Staffordshire after they were challenged about the authenticity of their names and documen-

Now, all applicants who have previously applied to work in other parts of



David Pattison

the country but did not go through with the applications will be asked why.
David Pattison, South Staffordshire Council's director of legal and public health protection, said he was satisfied with the authority's current methods and was not aware with any current issues regarding its drivers, but that it could not drivers, but that it could not

drivers, but that it could not become allowed to become complacent. He said: "We have actually already got really strong procedures in place but what we have got to do is make sure we work with partners and identify issues when they come up. When allegations have been made in the past, powers have been used and licences have been taken away. We are certainly not complacent and it is important we have and it is important we have these conversations."

Power network plans to take on **100 apprentices**

A POWER company which manages electricity supplies to millions of homes and businesses in the Midlands has announced plans to take

on 100 apprentices.
Western Power Distribution has unveiled the recruitment drive as part of the company's launch of its new 2015 apprenticeship

its new 2015 apprenticeship campaign.

A range of jobs will be on offer to trainees in the scheme including joiners and fitters which will see recruits based at locations across the Midlands.

Company spokesman Liz

Company spokesman Liz Kelly said: "We're looking to recruit around 100 technical apprentices in total across

our region, including over 30 in the West Midlands, as part of our core strategy to bring in fresh talent and to maintain a skilled workforce

maintain a skilled workforce as existing staff retire."
Western Power Distribution owns and operates the electricity distribution network, providing power to homes and businesses across the Midlands, south west England and south Wales employing more than 6,000 staff.
It deals with a range of is-

o,000 starr.

It deals with a range of issues including repairs during power cuts.

The company is taking

applications until mid-January. For details visit www. westernpower.co.uk/careers



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Jobless young urged to apply for course YOUNG unemployed people who want is aimed at 16 to 25-year-olds who are week away, complete a two-week work

YOUNG unemployed people who want to take their first steps towards a successful career are being urged to apply for a place on a pioneering project. Safer Communities CIC, in partnership with Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service and The Prince's Trust, is now recruiting for the next Team Programme. The three-month course

unemployed. It aims to give them the skills and confidence they need to get into work or training.

There are 15 places available on the There are 15 places available on the

skiis and confidence they need to get into work or training.

There are 15 places available on the full-time programme, which starts on February 2 and will run from Stafford fire station. During the course, young people will take part in a residential dispersion of the station.

Two sentenced for £20k cocaine find raids on houses

value of £20,000 was seized in a major police drugs swoop in Hednesford, a court heard.

Hednesford, a court heard.

The operation included raids at two houses belonging to two local men, Stafford Crown Court heard.

At one, a house rented by Dale Gardiner in Heron Dale, officers discovered six bags of drugs in a safe hidden in a wardrobe.

Mr Nick Burn, prosecuting, said the bags contained just over 200 grammes of cocaine of high purity which could have fetched between £15,000 and £20,000 in street deals. In a linked raid at the home of Rick Bradley, whose fingerprints were on two of the

ley, whose fingerprints were on two of the bags of cocaine, officers recovered a quantity of cash. Bradley, aged 25, of Splash Lane, Hednesford, was jailed for three years after admitting possessing drugs with intent to supply. Gardiner, 26, of Queen Street, Cansol supply. Gardiner, 28, of Queen Street, Can-nock, was given a two-year prison sentence suspended for two years and curfewed for nine months. He also admitted possessing drugs with intent to supply.

The court heard that Gardiner had al-

lowed 'a friend' to store drugs at the house while he was working away.

Significant

Significant

The cocaine in four of the bags was of 67 per cent purity, compared with the 15 or 20 per cent usually found in street deals. The other two bags containing cocaine pellets were 57 per cent pure. Also seized from the property in Heron Dale were three sets of scales and a bag of benzocaine – a cutting agent used to bulk out cocaine deals.

Mr Burn said: "Whatever one makes of their explanations, it was a significant role."

Mr Mark Nicholls, representing Gardiner, a qualified electrician, said: "He allowed a friend to install a safe at this property where he wasn't staying a great deal of the time, working away.

"Whereas he knew the safe was likely to contain some drugs, he certainly had no idea as to the amount. He had no role other than being a custodian, made no benefit, he is the one ultimately left carrying the can. "This was a major operation involving a number of other other defendants. It is a huge

"This was a major operation involving a number of other defendants. It is a huge a number of other defendants. It is a nuge shame that his naivety allowed a friend—if you can call him that—to store drugs at his home, it wasn't his enterprise." Mr Ben Williams, defending, said Bradley accepted responsibility for only two of the bags of cocaine.

Props needed for show



Ian Parkes as Rene Artois in the Lichfield Players' production

AN amateur dramatics company is appealing for realistic props for its upcoming production of 'Allo 'Allo.

To get the authentic 1940s look, a cash till from the decade is needed by members of the Lichfield Players. Props such as German sausages, a wireless disguised as a cockatoo and a blow-up Hitler doll have all been sourced, but the society is in need of an authentic-looking till for the cast bar staff to tot up the on-stage drinks.

Producer Kathy Bryers said: "The play is set during World War Two in the French town of Nouvion

on stage fit the play's very specific time capsule. The cast have nailed their characters, we've ordered cos-tumes which will look familiar to the TV show's fans, and would love to get all the finer details spot on."

to get all the finer details spot on."
The Lichfield Players' production
runs at the Lichfield Garrick from
January 21 to 24. Anyone able to
help with a 1940s-looking cash till
should email kathy@bryers.co.uk
The company, which was founded
in the early years of the Second
World War, is also eager to attract
new members.

new members.

Anyone interested should email lichfieldplayers 1@gmail.com

Council's staff | Wildlife charity collect toys for boss steps down sick children

South Staffordshire council collected more than 200 toys, books and games to give to Acorns Children's Sally Insley, community

to give to Acorns Children's Hospice.

The fundraising effort was spearheaded by the council's customer services team along with members of Staffordshire County Council's Families First team in South Staffordshire.

Council leader Brian Edwards said: "Staff have been working really hard to get as many donations as possible for this incredibly worthwhile charity. Christmas really is a time Christmas really is a time for sharing. Hopefully the donations made by staff will

Sally Insley, community fundraising manager for Acorns in the Black Coun-try, said: "Acorns relies on fundraising for the majority of its income so it's fantastic that we're at the beginning of a lasting and meaningful relationship with every-one at South Staffordshire Council.

Council.
"It costs over £8 million per year to provide vital care and support and I'm looking forward to plans for 2015 coming together that will help us to continue that work," she added.

after 15 years

In his stepped down after 15 years.
Guy Corbett-Marshall has seen Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, which is based at the Wolseley Centre between Stafford and Rugeley, grow to more than 15,000 members, with 3,500 acres of land held as nature reserves.
Mr Corbett-Marshall said: "Personally, I now feel it is time for me to move on to take up fresh challenges.
"I have enjoyed my time at Staffordshire Wildlife Trust immensely and take

Trust immensely and take pride in the progress we have made over the past few

THE chief executive of a years. I want to thank the wildlife conservation char-ity has stepped down after support they have given me 15 years. as well as all our volunteers, members and supporters."

As well as playing a vital

As wen as playing a viner role in helping the char-ity take control of Tuck-lesholme Quarry near Barton-under-Needwood and Highgate Common near Wombourne, Mr Cor-bett-Marshall oversaw the

bett-Marshall oversaw the trust move from its previous headquarters in Sandon. Trust chairman Vince Smith said: "On behalf of the trustees, I would like to thank Guy for his hard work in building up the trust."

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generous fillings give this mattress a luxury comfort

support

Students go behind scenes at Wembley



iam Atkinson and Charlotte Penwright were among the students who visited the famous stadium

A GROUP of sports students from South Staffordshire College were treated to a guided tour of Wembley Stadium as part of the curriculum.

as part of the curriculum.

The visit was organised by UCFB Wembley – a university campus based at the stadium – and included a tour of the ground, campus and workshops. The 35 students, accompanied by three members of staff, also enjoyed a Careers in Sport workshop, personal statement writing and had an opportunity to talk to students studying at UCFB Jamie Chapman, quality coordinator for sport at the college, said: "The trip provided the students with an excellent opportunity to see the splendid university facilities and give them motivational ideas towards future career prospects."

Charlotte Penwright, studying Sports and Exercise Science at the college's Cannock campus, said she enjoyed the visit, adding: "It was great meeting the UCFB students and having the opportunity to discuss what the university is like. The facilities were really good and I'm now seriously considering going to the campus next year to study."

considering going to the campus next year to study.

Jack Stafford, also studying Sports and Exercise Science, said: "It has given me some ideas of what career options are open to me after finishing college."

Crime-hit businesses to get free expert help

Cannock, Hednesford, Rugeley and Burntwood are to get free expert support and guidance to help them back on their feet.

guidance to help them back on their feet.

Business crime advisers will be available to all local firms, whether they report the crime to police or not, and offer victims specialist support in areas such as security, insurance, ICT recovery and reputational damage.

Staffordshire Chambers of Commerce will run the service after successfully bidding for the initial six month contract.

Chief Supt Jeff Moore said: "Businesses who are victims of crime will be sign-posted to the self-referral service by police.

Support

ure and job losses.

"So it is vital that we help business victims of crime to continue to trade and sup-port them to reduce the cost and impact of that crime."

The service will run until August 31 when it will be reviewed as part of plans for a wider Victims Gateway in Staffordshire. Businesses

can find out more or sign up to free business crime alerts

at www.staffordshire-pcc. gov.uk/business

Support

"There will also be a dedicated website which will give full details of the scheme once it has been launched on January 26.

"We hope the availability of business crime advisers will help to support our local businesses who are victims of arime."

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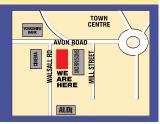
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The postcards produced by Charles Fontaine made up the face of the Kaiser when they were put together

THESE six black and white propaganda postcards depict-ing the atrocities of war on the front line and away from the battlefields date from the First World War and were are

included in a unique exhibition of rare wartime artefacts.

The propaganda postcards have been loaned to Great
Wyrley Local History Society for an exhibition.

The black and white drawings are thought to have been
sketched by Frenchman Charles Fontaine some time during the Great War and each one includes short narrative
down the side explaining what is happening in the picture.

Served

When the whole set was collected they made up the face of the Kaiser.

The postcards belong to Andy Parsons who was given them by his uncle Tom Parsons, who served in the Royal Army Medical Corps during the First World War.

History society member Ron Myatt said: "We don't know where or how Uncle Tom came across the postcards.

"He must have got them from France. He was posted there during the war.

"They are very good. Each one denicts an atrocity from

rnere during the war.
"They are very good. Each one depicts an atrocity from
the war," Mr Myatt added.
"These postcards are very scarce. I've been told there are
only two other collections of these postcards."

New stop and search scheme is launched

STAFFORDSHIRE Police have launched the Government's Best Use of Stop and Search The voluntary scheme was an-

Scheme. The voluntary scheme was announced by the Home Secretary in April.

It is part of a range of measures to improve the overall use of stop and search by officers. Aims of the scheme include creating more transparency and having more intelligence-led stop and searches with better results.

Staffordshire Police are one of 35 forces to implement the scheme which will also include the introduction of a community complaints trigger, to ensure that complaints are properly monitored and scrutinised.

Assistant Chief Constable Bernie O'Reilly said: "Stop and Search Scheme we can achieve greater transparency and offer a better service to our communities." Home Secretary Theresa May said: "Stop and search powers are virtal in the fight against crime when used correctly.

"Home Secretary in April.

It is part of a range of measures to improve the overall by Katy-Rose Meaney

By Katy-Rose Meaney

office's Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme we can achieve greater transparency and offer a better service to our communities."

Home Secretary in April.

Opportunity

"However, the use of stop and search must be based on the best intelligence available to us at the time and done in a manner which is as ethical as possible.
"In the near future we will give members of the public the opportunity to observe how we use stop and search to help us tackle crime and disorder.
"I am confident that by

"However, they must be applied fairly and only when needed – and in a way that builds community con-fidence rather than under-mining it.
"Staffordshire Police

stationastice Fonce are dedicated to reforming their use of stop and search powers, saving officers' time and increasing transparency within the local community," she added.

"I'm delighted they have now fully implemented the Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme.

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Thursday, January 1, 2015

Chronicle

The

A Rugeley woman was among seven new Deputy Lieutenants for Stafford-

shire who were sworn in during a special ceremony. It was carried out by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieuten-ant of Staffordshire, Ian James Dudson. Her Majes-ty's Lord Vicuteners in the ty's Lord-Lieutenant is the Queen's representative in the county.

the county.

The new Deputy Lieutenants will help Mr Dudson with his duties throughout the year.

Mr Dudson said: "They have all been selected because of their roles within their communities."

their communities."
The Staffordshire Deputy
Lieutenants are Graham
Morley of Stoke, Pritpal
Singh Nagi of Newcastle-under-Lyme, Barbara
Hyde of Rugeley, Simon
Clarke of Burton, Susie Inge-Innes-Lillingston from
Tamworth, Jeremy Cotton
Trom Shenstone and David from Shenstone and David Gage of Uttoxeter.

26 New deputy **FOCUS ON RUGELEY**

sworn in at ceremony Young footballers celebrate activities in 2015 their county title triumph

FOOTBALLERS from Chase View Primary School triumphed as champions in the county finals of the Danone Nations Cup.

The pupils travelled to the 3G Arena at Rowley Park in Stafford to represent the Cannock and Rugeley Partnership after winning the qualifying competition held at Cardinal Griffin.

Before leaving, they had been given a good luck message from Chris Evans on his BBC radio breakfast show.

In total eight schools

In total eight schools

In total, eight schools In total, eight schools were competing, each representing their own district of Staffordshire – Tamworth, Stafford, East Staffs, Stoke on Trent, Moorlands, Lichfield and Newcastle – along with Chase View.

Essential

Each had won their own local qualifying tournament.
Chase View's first game saw them taking on St Peter's Primary from Stonnall in a 0-0 draw.

After this stalemate, Chase View knew that a win was essential in their second game which was against Sir John Offley Primary from near the Staffordshire/ Cheshire border. Chase View eventually broke the

deadlock with a goal from Ryley Archer which was then doubled by Dan Martin to make the final score 2-0. Chase View knew another win was needed in their final game, against St Andrew's Primary from Weston near Stafford. A brace from Dan Martin saw Chase View again win 2-0, which meant they had made the final.

Their opponents in the final were Corbett Primary School from Bobbington, near Wolverhampton. For tunately for Chase View, Dan Martin clearly had his shooting boots on as he scored to put Chase View, and then added a second for a third 2-0 win.

The next step will see the team represent Staffordshire in the Central Regional event in March.



Champions - Rhys Williams, Jake Cartwright, Mackenzie John, Alfie Wass, Reiss Walters, Ryley Archer and Dan Martin

Estate to stage new

HAWKESYARD Estate near Rugeley is busy plan-ning for an eventful 2015 after undergoing major redevelopment during the past 18 months.

Among the activities will

Among the activities will be a wedding showcase event, which will be held on January 25. Sarah Smith, sales and events manager, said: "We've introduced a new portfolio of events to exter "We've introduced a new portfolio of events to cater for, including funeral wakes, christenings, prom evenings, awards presentations and birthday parties alongside our fantastic wedding packages."

The venue, which offers civil wedding and wedding breakfast packages, is steeped in centuries of history and is located in more than 200 acres of parkland. Doubling up as a confer-

Doubling up as a conferencing and events destina-tion, the estate can cater for 120 guests plus addi-tional rooms if required.

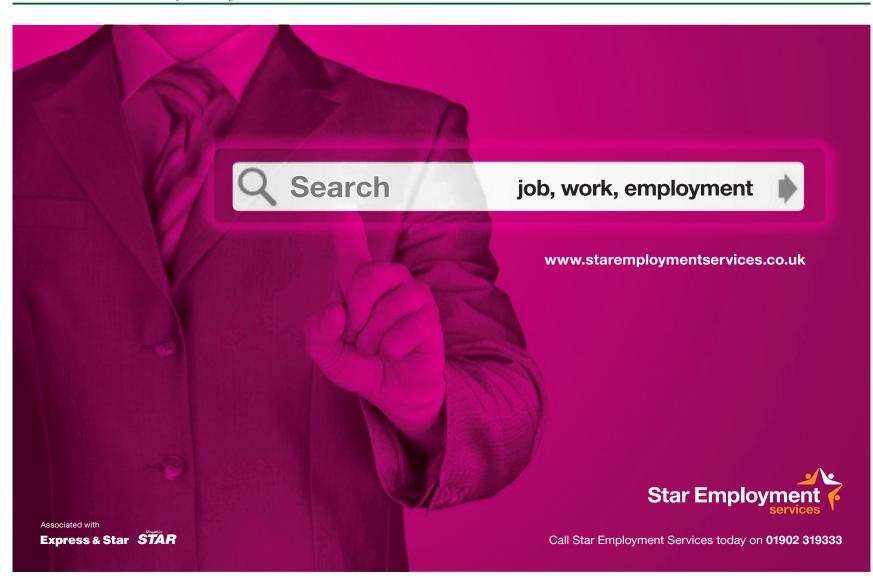
Local businesses occupy within

serviced offices within part of the hall and regular workshops and courses are run by photographers, team building associations

and networking groups.
For details, call 01543
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Traders to meet

THE next meeting of Rugeley Traders Association will be held on January 13 at St Joseph's Community Centre starting at 5.30pm.



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Making a case to support growth of small business

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

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right?
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it from what the future may bring.
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tantly, grow.

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Their innovatively designed roducts – including their famous children's suitcase – have enabled them to access a range of government products and services, helping them to take huge leaps as a business.

Patented

"Trunki has received government support in a number of ways," explains lawyer Rob Law, founder of Trunki. "Firstly, we worked hard to re-shore our manufacturing to our plastics moulding factory in Plymouth, allowing us to benefit from The Patent Box

benefit from The Patent Box scheme."

The Patent Box enables companies to apply a lower rate of corporation tax to profits earned from patented inventions. It is being phased in over a four-year period and once the full benefit of the Patent Box is in effect, from April 2017, it will result in a 10 per cent rate of corporation tax being applied to such returns.

"We have always applied for patents for all of our products to build up our IP portfolio," said Rob. "It's one of the most valuable assets we have.

most valuable assets we have

"This scheme is brilliant, allowing us to re-invest more of our earnings back into the business. It motivated us to stay in the UK and not to offshore.





Founder Rob Law with his Trunki invention

It rewards inventive companies too.

It rewards inventive companies too, which can only be a good thing. "Secondly, we received government support through R&D tax credits for the development of our BoostAPak children's car seat and for the re-engineered version of our Trunki suitcases, which is now easier to manufacture in the UK and to recvole." the UK and to recycle.

There are many types of financial support available to businesses with ambitions to grow.

As well as the increasing variety of

finance sources now available, such as crowdfunding, bank loans and peer-to-peer lending, there are many government schemes and incentives –

on top of those Trunki accessed - de vised to help small businesses secure the funding they need to succeed.

For example, your business may be eligible for financial support packages such as the Enterprise Investment Scheme, SMART grants or Social Investment Tax Relief.

Or perhaps your business needs the support to secure initial funding to

the support to secure initial funding to help turn your idea into a reality. To learn about all of the finance op-

tions available to you and your business, and for more detail on how the government can support you finan-cially, visit www.greatbusiness.gov.uk





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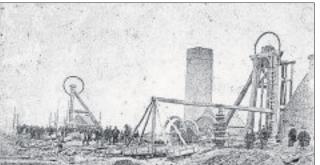
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Some of the colliery disaster widows with the Reverend Selwyn

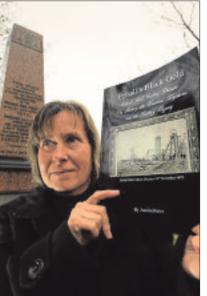




A card dedicated to one of the victims George Cassell

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Annita Bates, author of Pelsall's Black Gold, at St Michael's Church, where miners from the colliery disaster are buried

Identity of miner lost in disaster still unknov

THE story of the 22 miners who went to work in a coal mine 140 years ago and never made it home is the sub-

ject of a new book.

The Pelsall Hall Colliery disaster, on November 14, 1872, saw the pit flood when workers came across old unrecorded workings which were full of water.

which were full of water.

Some men were rescued when they clung to the bottom of the pit cage and were hauled to safety but the rest died. Mystery still surrounds the identity of one of the men, whose body was never

one of the men, whose body was never found. He is known as miner 22. More than 100 years on, a historian is attempting to find out the truth in her latest book. Pelsall's Black Gold by Annita Bates

goes through the timeline of events leading up to the disaster – and the shockwaves it sent through the community.

Witness accounts from the time sug-

MEMORY LANE

- but the only people who would have known who he was all perished. Mrs Bates, of Pelsall, has trawled ar-

Mrs bates, of Peisali, has trawied archives and spoken to people throughout the community – but has failed to find out who he was.

She said: "Through my investigations I disconcertingly found that no

one knew who the missing miner was and that he is listed in the official Min-ing Inspectorate of 1873 as miner 22, unknown and not found.

"If there is any doubt as to whether miner 22 existed at all, it is said that miner 22 existed at all, it is said that on the anniversary of the disaster some of the houses surrounding the old pit area experience paranormal activity which is believed to be a cry for help from the missing miner who is still trapped below ground."

The unknown miner has become a mythical figure in Pelsall over the decades and a source of fecination

decades and a source of fascination

for gnost nunters, who believe he has been haunting the local area.

Mrs Bates says she believes the man's identity may never be known. She had hoped that records from the time would be more extensive – but time would be more extensive – but it appears investigators had accepted there was another miner that would never be found.

Her book also tells the story of how people came to Pelsall in their thou-

people came to Pelsall in their thousands to find out what was going on and to view the bodies of the dead miners in the room behind the old Station Inn pub where they were laid out.

And there are touching stories from the aftermath, such as a frantic dog which reportedly stayed on the pit bank day after day waiting for his master to return from the flooded mine.

She added: "The unknown miner is a mystery that may never be solved but there are so many other stories associated with the disaster and the people at the time."

The book is £10 and available from Charlie's Sweet Shop on Pelsall High Street and Waterstones in Walsall.



Forward, my wife, and children, and from 6s, so dear. Wass, not for mo, though I be here, It's fand to past settle these we have, But sweet, to meet with Carlet

Charles Astbury, one of the mineworkers who died in the Pelsall Hall Colliery disaster of 1872



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Recruitment drive in county leads to drop in claimants

A MAJOR recruitment drive among firms such as Amazon in Rugeley, delivery firms such as Cannock's APC Overnight and at stores and supermarkets across the region is thought to be behind the steep drop in the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance.

The claimant count was down across the Staffordshire districts of Cannock Chase, Lichfield, South Staffs and Stafford, as well as in Kidderminster and Wyre Forest.

Amanda Milling, prospective Conservative Parliamentary candidate for Cannock Chase,

at the Royal Mail. But it is not just seasonal. Over the last year we have supported 3,000 people from the Wolverhampton area into work, both part time and full time.

"And a third of those have been young people, aged 18 to 24. And we are seeing this across the whole area. The private sector has created around 115,000 jobs in the West Midlands since 2010.

tor has created around 110,000 jobs in the West Midlands since 2010.

"We are now looking ahead to the start of the new year and we have literally hundreds of jobs that we know will need filling, particularly in warehousing and stock picking.

Helping

"Synchreon, the company that handles components and parts for Jaguar Land Rover, has been recruiting for its work with

Rover, has been recruiting for its work with the company's engine factory on the i54 site, and we know JLR will be looking to take on another 200 there early in the new year.

"At the same time Poundland is taking on more people at its distribution depot in Bilston. Many of these jobs need people with fork lift truck operators' licences, and that is something we are helping people gain.

"There are other jobs in the hospitality industry, manufacturing, logistics as well as in customer service for a utility company's telesales operation in Wolverhampton.
"Certainly right at the moment anyone

telesales operation in Wolverhampton.
"Certainly right at the moment anyone
with forklift qualifications or who has been
in chef is in high demand."
The Black Country has also been a pilot
area for intensive programmes aimed at getting the jobless into work, often linked to
skills and training.
The combination of Jobcentre schemes
and esseal regulitant saw the number



Jobcentre schemes contributed to the

month to 7,461, or 4.7 per cent of the city's working population. That is still one of the highest claimant rates in the country, however – the national average is 2.1 per cent.

In Dudley the claimant count was down by 389 to 5,880 or three per cent, while in Sandwell it was down by 496 to 7,802 or four per cent. In Walsall it was down 536 to 5,241 or 3.1 per cent.

Across the West Midlands as a whole unemployment fell by 14,000 to 187,000 between August and October, according to figures released vesterday by the Office for Nationwide a cut of 63,000 in the jobless total to 1.96 million between August and

total to 1.96 million between August and

"Certainly right at the moment anyone with forklift qualifications or who has been in chef is in high demand."

The Black Country has also been a pilot area for intensive programmes aimed at getting the jobless into work, often linked to skills and training.

The combination of Jobcentre schemes and seasonal recruitment saw the number of people claiming Jobseekre's Allowance in the Black Country fall by 2,053 to 26,384 in November, the figures from the Office for National Statistics showed. In Wolverhampton it was down by 632 on the previous



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We look forward to seeing you in the New Year...

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Insignia Kitchen Design based in Heath Hayes, Staffordshire is a family run business, with skilled kitchen designers and kitchen installers who can bring your ideas to life. With over thirty years of experience and customer satisfaction behind us we can guarantee a unique and personal service... Simply visiting Insignia Kitchen Design means that you have the pleasure and benefit of creating a kitchen that is designed for and by you, there are many companies in the kitchen industry that offer a similar service but such companies attach it to ranges that consist of an impressive

variety of shapes, sizes and colours but are nonetheless far from one off designs. You however, with Insignia Kitchen Planning get a high degree of individuality and flexibility. Visit our showroom at 190 Hednesford Road, Heath Hayes, Cannock, Staffordshire, WS12 3DZ or contact us on 01543 01543 878201 www.insigniakitchens.co.uk

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We are a small family run business that has been established over 20 years and all of our friendly and helpful staff are fully skilled and trained in all aspects of motor vehicle body repair. We complete private and insurance work including non fault accidents and offer free no obligation quotations.

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We can prepare and re-paint your vehicle putting it back to showroom condition.

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complete service from start to finish, including all workmanship of plumbing, tiling, electrical work, etc.

At The Whole Solution we only use reputable companies with proven industry materials, ensuring that all of the furniture and materials we use are of the highest quality and standard making sure we meet your requirements.

Having been established for 12 years, The Whole Solution can provide you with a first class professional service, so please call us now for your free quotation.

MASCOT HAIR DESIGN

Mascot Hair Design is located in Water Street and has been established for nearly 14 years.

We are a '365' appointed salon and we have a system in place that provides our guests with a high quality service giving advice on their hair and recommending the right products to help them to achieve their hairstyle and be able to maintain it at home.

We have four stylists including myself, a receptionist and Emma who runs her own hair extension business.

All our stylists are trained to a high standard and are always willing to learn new things and take on new challenges. We have on-going education involving Paul Mitchell cutting and colouring techniques

We also have a retail area including various products Which are Paul Mitchell, Moroccan oil, milk shake and tangle teasers.

Customer care is very important to us and our main objective is to have happy customers with great hair!



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Rebecca Jayne at Mix n Match





REBECCA JAYNES @ MIX N MATCH BRIDAL WEAR

Rebecca Jaynes Exclusive bridal wear, at Mix n Match, is located in the centre of Rugeley town. The business is co owned by Mother and Daughter, Eve and Rebecca.

In November this year, they celebrated 20 YEARS in

They pride themselves on their personal service, professionalism and a warm welcome to all new Brides and their families. Specialising in Special occasion Mother of the Bride/ Groom from designers such as John Charles, Ann Balon, Mascara. With a stunning collection of hats, fascinators and shoes. The first floor Bridal suite offers gowns from the leading Bridal Houses.

Ten major labels allowing an array of different styles and choice for all brides from simple to flamboyant. The ladies offer a full selection of sizes from size 2 -30. They have a specialist inhouse designer offering a couture, vintage collection.

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CHOICE



Paddy McGuinness

Take Me Out (ITV, 8.30pm)

If you watched the last series of Strictly Come Dancing, then you'll have had an inkling that this dating show was coming back soon after seeing Take Me Out: The Gossip presenter Mark Wright rehearsing his salsa on the Isle of Fernandos. But who else will host Paddy McGuinness be sending to soak up the sun? We're about to find out as he introduces us to a new line up of 30 women, who are all looking for love. So in this first edition, gamekeeper Ash. from West Sussex, school bus driver Scott, from Newcastle, Somerset magician Steve and Leamington Spa student Craig will have to do their best to impress. In theory, Steve should have an advantage as he could literally have a few tricks up his sleeve, but will the girls fall

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 Nigel Slater's Dish of the Day. (R) 12.00 BBC News; Weather. 12.10 Football Focus. 1.00 Bargain Hunt. (R) 2.00 Escape to the Continent. (R) 2.30 Live Darts: BDO World Championships. Coverage of the opening day of the tournament. **4.30** Final Score. **5.20** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **5.35** Celebrity Mastermind.

6.05 Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong hosts an FA Cup special, quizzing Gabby Logan, Robbie Savage, Mark Chapman, Phil Neville, Jermaine Jenas, Jacqui Oatley, Jason Mohammad and Trevor Sinclair.

Alexander Armstrong and Rochelle Humes host this one-off special in which seven acts from special in which seven acts from across the UK perform their own renditions of songs made famous by Frank Sinatra, The lucky winner will get the chance to perform at a concert celebrating the centenary of OI Blue Eyes birth later in the year—and choosing the best will be 12 music industry professionals, guided by the opinions of a celebrity panel including furnyman and performer Rufus Hound, singer Mica Paris and big-band musicial Leo Green. The programme will also pay tribute to the singer's influence over the past seven decades, revealing why among his peers, he really was the "Chairman of the Board".

or the odard .

8.15 The National Lottery: Win Your Wish List. Shane Richie hosts the game show in which two contestants answer questions to try to win each other's dream prizes. Including the lottery draws, with Kate Garraway.

9.05 Casualty. As 2015 approaches. Casualty. As 2015 approaches, Connie lets her personal life cloud her judgement and Zoe is saddened when alcoholic Molly is brought in, having been found unconscious in the park.

10.00 BBC News; Weather. 10.15 Mrs Brown's Boys. The second of two festive episodes. Agnes increases her home security after a spate of local burglaries. (R)

a space of local burgiaries. (F 10.50 Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights; National Lottery Update.

12.00 Film: Lesbian Vampire Killers (2009) 1.20 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.25 BBC News.

BBC₂

6.00 Animal Park. (R) 6.30 Film: Hue and Cry. (1947) 7.50 Film: The Titfield Thunderbolt. (1953) 9.10 Fred Dibnah's Building of Britain. (R) 9.40 Fred Dibnah's Building of Britain. (R) 10.10 Dibnan's Bulding of Britain. (R) 10.10
British Isles: A Natural History. (R) 11.00
British Isles: A Natural History. (R) 10.00
British Bake Off
Masterclass. (R) 1.00
British Bake Off
Masterclass. (R) 1.05
British World's Most
Photographed (R) 1.35
British Viva Las
Vegas. (1964) Musical, starring Elvis
Presley. 3.00
Big Dreams Small Spaces.
(R) 4.00
Brestoring England's Heritage.
4.30 Live Darts: BDO World
Championships. Further coverage of the
opening day of the tournament. 5.30
Tigers About the House – What
Happened Next. (R)
5.30
Sacred Wonders of Britain. Neil

Happened Next. (R)

6.30 Sacred Wonders of Britain. Neil
Oliver visits Bronze and Iron Age
sites that were important to
ancient Britons, examining a
causeway built across fens near
Peterborough and learning about
druids on Anglesey. (R)

druids on Anglesey. (R)
7.30 Dad's Army. The vicar and the verger enlist in the Home Guard, but their over-enthusiastic manmanagement brings the wrath of Warden Hodges down upon the platoon. (R)

platoon. (R)

8.00 Rubens: An Extra Large Story.
Waldemar Januszczak examines
the life and art of Flemish baroque
artist Peter Paul Rubens,
correcting the misconceptions
that have arisen about him and reevaluating his work.

9.00 Film: Albert Nobbs. (2011)
Premiere: A woman in 19thcentury Ireland has lived in
disquise as a man for 30 years,
holding down a job as a butler at a
Dublin hotel. She meets a married

holding down a job as a butler at a Dublin hotel. She meets a married house painter whom she discovers is a fellow cross-dresser, and is inspired by her new friend's happy life to seek a wife of her own. Period drama, starring Glenn Close, Mia Wasikowska, Aaron Taylor-Johnson and Janet

10.45 Charlie Brooker's 2014 Wipe, A satirical look back at the events of the past 12 months, including the ice-bucket challenge craze and the past 12 mone..., ice-bucket challenge craze and Chris Martin and Gwyneth Paltrow's "conscious uncoupling". (R)

11.45 Darts: BDO World Championships. Action from the opening day at the Lakeside Country Club in Frimley Green. 12.35 Darts Extra. 2.35 This Is BBC Two

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! 6.25 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.35 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.40 Dino Dan. (R) 6.50 Dino Dan. (R) 7.05 Canimals. (R) 7.10 Canimals. (R) 7.20 Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) 7.25 Sooty. (R) 7.35 Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) 7.50 Hulk and the Agents of Smash. 8.15 Horrid Henry. (R) 8.30 Nerds & Monsters. (R) 8.45 Nerds & Monsters. (R) 9.00 Deadtime Stories. 3.30 Nerds & Monsters, (R) 8.45 Nerds & Monsters, (R) 9.0 Deadtime Stories, (R) 9.25 The Jerom Vyle Show USA, 10.20 Murder, She Wrote, (R) 11.15 TIV News; Weather, 11.25 Ejector Seat, (R) 12.25 The 21st Question, (R) 1.25 Film: Columbo: Lovely but Lethal, (1973) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk and Martin Sheen, 2.55 Who S Doing the Dishes? (R) 3.55 Tipping Point, (R) 4.55 Big Star's Little Star, (R) 5.55 Regional Programme; Weather, 6.05 TIV News, Weather.

6.20 Film: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang. (2010) A woman is left running the family farm alone while her husband is fighting in the Second World War. The wartthe Second World War. The wart-faced magical namy is on hand to help her cope with her unruly children, their even more mischievous evacuated cousins, and her scheming brother-in-law, who wants the farm for himself. Fantasy comedy, with Emma Thompson, Magile Gyllenhaal and the late Sam Kelly.

8.30 Take Me Out. New series. A gamekeeper, a bus driver, a magician and a student set out to impress a line-up of single women and take one of them for a break in the sun. Paddy McGuinness

9.30 Film: The Hangover. (2009) Premiere. Three men on a stag Premiere. Three men on a slag weekend in Las Vegas wake up after a night of heavy drinking and find they have not only misplaced tiger and a baby. Unable to remember the details of the night before, they set about piecing the clues together in the hope of finding their missing friend. Comedy, starring Bradley Cooper, Ed Helms and Zach Galifanakis.

11.45 Film: Dog Day Afternoon. (1975)
A hapless bank robber sees his simple heist turn into a hostage situation and a media circus.
Sidney Lumet's fact-based drama, starring Al Pacino.

1.55 Jackpot247. 3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) 3.40 ITV Nightscree

CHANNEL 4

6.10 Film: Arabian Adventure. (1979)
7.55 The Morning Line. 8.55 The King of Ouenes. (R) 9.25 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.95 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 10.25 Frasier. (R) 10.55 Frasier. (R) 11.25 Frasier. (R) 11.25 Marvle's Agents of SHIELD. (R) 12.25 Gadget Man's Guide Christmas. (R) 1.30 Channel 4 Racing. 4.00 Film: Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel. (2009) Cornedy, with Zachary Levi. 5.45 The Simpsons. (R) 6.10 The Simpsons. 8rd highes a prank

Zachary Levi. 5.45 The Simpsons. (R)
6.10 The Simpsons. Bart plays a prank
on Mrs Krabappel, but it backfires
and results in her being fired—
leaving him feeling so guilty that
he resolves to do everything he
can to get her reinstated. (R)
6.35 The Simpsons. Marge campaigns
against a violent sport that has
captivated Springfield's male
population, antagonising
prompter Chett Fnolehrecht who

promoter Chett Englebrecht, who challenges her to a fight. (R)

7.00 Channel 4 News.

Britain's Wildest Weather 2014.
Last year, the nation was hit by tornados, floods, hurricanes and ferocious storms, as well as the chilliest August in more than two decades, but also enjoyed the hottest Halloween on record. This documentary presents eyewitness footage of an unpredictable 12 months, featuring rescues at sea, nomes struck by lightning, an escape for 500 cows, and sea a look at the science behind these wild weather events and with yther may be worse to come. (R)
Film: Taken. (2008) An American teenager travelling through Europe is abducted by a gang of sex traffickers. However, what the kidnappers do not realise is that 7.30 Britain's Wildest Weather 2014.

kidnappers do not realise is that the girl's father is a former CIA agent, who employs all his old skills as he searches for the criminals and tries to rescue his daughter. Thriller, starring Liam Neeson and Maggie Grace.

10.50 Bill Bailey Qualmpeddler. Stand-up comedy from London's Hammersmith Apollo, accompanied by light-hearted musical numbers, from religious dubstep and German folk-metal to a reggae version of Downton Abbey.

11.50 Film: The Godfather: Part III. (1990) Crime drama sequel, starring Al Pacino.

2.55 Hollyoaks. (R) 5.05 Hugh's 3 Good Things. 5.15 Secret Eaters. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 9.50 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) 10.25 Access. (R) 10.30 Ice Road Truckers. (R) 11.30 Ice Road Truckers. (R) 12.30 Ice Road Truckers. (R) 1.25 Film: McLintock! (1052) Cendul Metante retarises Icha (1963) Comedy Western, starring John Wayne. 3.55 Film: The Searchers. (1956) John Ford's Western, starring John Wayne.

6.20 Film: Zulu. (1964) An upper-class soldier and his fellow officer soldier and his fellow officer stationed at Rorkes Drift in 1879 discover they have been cut off after the destruction of the main British army column in the area. They must rally their small force of 140 men against the might of 4,000 Zultu warriors advancing on their position. Fact-based historical drama, starring Michael ureir position. Fact-based historical drama, starring Michael Caine, Stanley Baker, Jack Hawkins, Ulla Jacobsson, Nigel Green and Chief Buthelezi, with narration by Richard Burton.

5 News Weakerd

8.55 5 News Weekend.

8.55 5 News Weekend.
9.00 Most Shocking Celebrity
Moments 2014. Countdown of the
biggest showbusiness stories and
scandals of the year, from Solange
Knowles attacking brother-in-law
Jay Z in a lift, to Cheryl FernandezVersini's whirdwind romance and
marriage as well as her return to
The X Factor. Plus, the ongoing
antics of Justin Biber. One
Direction's alleged dalliances with
drugs, Russell Brand's attempt to
start a revolution, Gwyneth
Pattrow and Chris Martins
"conscious uncoupling" and Judy
Murray's efforts on Strictly Come
Dancing, The programme also has
the Inside track on the weddings
of Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolle,
and George Clooney and Amal of Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolle, and George Clooney and Amal Alamuddin, and considers whether Kim Kardashian's bottom is set to take over the world. Featuring contributions by Len Goodman, Janice Dickinson, James Jordan, Sinitta, Kerry

Waltz and Suzanne Shaw. (R)
11.55 Access.
12.00 SuperCasino. Viewers get the
chance to take part in live interactive
gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel
spins and lively chat from the presenting
team. 3.10 Autopsy: Michael Jackson's
Last Hours. Dr Richard Shepherd
investigates the cases of celebrities who
died unexpectedly. (R) 4.00 House
Doctor. A cottage in East Sussex. (R)
4.25 Make It Big. (R) 5.15 Angels of
Jarm. (R) 5.40 Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 FA Cup's 50 Greatest Moments 8.00
Top Gear 9.00 Film: Puss in Boots
(2011) 10.20 Russell Howard's Good
News 10.50 Family Gup 1.50 FA Cup's 50
Greatest Moments 2.50 Russell Howard's Good News 3.20 Cuckoo Christmas Special 3.50 Close

BBC Four

7.00 Lost Land of the Volcano 8.00 Do 7.00 Lost Land of the Volcano 8.00 Do
We Really Need the Moon? 9.00
Wallander: The Dogs of Riga 10.55
Sammy Davis Jr. The Kid in the Middle
11.55 An Evening with Sammy Davis Jr
12.55 Neil Sedaka: King of Song 1.55
Lost Land of the Volcano 2.55 Sammy
Davis Jr. The Kid in the Middle 3.55 Close

ITV2

12.15 The X Factor Class of 2014 1.15
The Cube: Celebrity Special 2.10 Film:
Space Jam (1998) 3.55 Film. Johnny
English (2003) 5.40 You've Been
Framed 1.64 of The Guide fo You've Been
Framed 1.745 Film: Mr Bean's Holiday
(2007) 9.30 Take Me Out - The Gossip
10.15 Film: The Bourne Ultimatum
(2007) 12.05 Linesen Celebrity Juice Tit
Bits 1.10 Two and a Half Men 1.35 Mom
2.11 Ife's Funniest Moments. 2.20 Life's Funniest Moments

100 Film: Gosford Park (2001) 3.45 Agatha Christie's Marple 5.55 Rosemary 8. Thyme 7.00 Doc Martin 8.00 Midsomer Murders 10.00 Lewis 12.05 A Is for Acid 1.55 Judge Judy 2.15 TIV3 Nightscreen 2.30 Teleshopping

1.05 Film: The Sting (1973) 3.40 Film: Police Academy 5: Assignment Miami Beach (1988) 5.30 Storage Wars 6.00 Beach (1988) 5.30 Storage Wars 6.00 Storage Wars Unlocked 7.00 Storage Wars 9.00 Film: Texas Killing Fields (2011) 11.10 Film: Total Recall (1990) 1.20 The Motorbike Show 2.10 Minder

11.00 Troy 11.30 How I Met Your Mother 11.00 I foy 11.30 How I Met Your Mother 12.30 Film: The Spiderwick Chronicles (2008) 2.25 Rude(ish) Tube 4.00 The Big Bang Theory 5.00 Film: The Golden Child (1986) 6.50 Rude(ish) Tube Shorts 7.00 The Big Bang Theory 9.00 Film: Role Models (2008) 11.05 Film: End of Days (1999) 1.30 The Inbetweeners 2.30 Purts 1 the 7.35 Models in Chalesce End of Rude Tube 3.25 Made in Chelsea: End of Season Party 4.20 Frozen at Christmas

Film4
11.00 Arrietty (2010) 1.00 Coraline
(2009) 3.05 Dragonball Evolution (2009)
4.45 New in Town (2009) 6.45 The
Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the
Dawn Treader (2010) 9.00 Resident Evil
(2002) 11.00 Lawless (2012) 1.15 10

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CHOICE



Kate Humble – Into the (BBC2, 8pm)

Wildlife expert and TV presenter Kate Humble is brave if nothing else. Take this latest two-parter that she's fronting - in which she will be journeying right to the heart of one of the world's most active volcanoes. She and a team of geologists are on the island of Tanna, in the Vanuatu archipelago, studying Yasur, a volcano that erupts constantly, blowing out red-hot lava bombs and covering the area in thick black ash. Kate and the team are keen to decipher when another eruption can be expected, but to do this, they need to collect a lava bomb the minute it's thrown from the crater. In preparing for their mission, Kate explores the island and discovers how the volcano shapes the lives, traditions and beliefs of everyone who lives in

BBC₁

6.00 Breakfast: 7.55 Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights. (R) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 Homes United Hammer. (R) 11.00 Escape to the Country. (R) 12.00 Bargain Hunt. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.15 Flog It! 2.15 Songs of Praise. 2.50 FA Cup High Songs of Praise. 2.50 FA Cup

Arsenal v Hull City (Kick-off 5.30pm).

7.30 Still Open All Hours. Love is in the air in the corner shop as Granville continues his attempts to woo Mavis, Gastric needs yet more help with his love life and Leroy arouses jealousy.

8.00 Countryfile. Adam Henson presents a special edition focusit

Countryfile. Adam Henson presents a special edition focusing on rare-breed farm animals and the threats to their future. He is joined by his father Joe, a founder of the Rare Breeds Survival Trust, who advises him on a potential addition to his farm – Longhorn cattle – and his Éxamor ponies. Adam also looks back at memorable items from the Countryfile archive featuring rare breeds, including terms from the countryffile archive featuring rare breeds, including Ellie Harrison learning to plough with a shire horse, Matt Baker following Tamworth pigs from farm to fork and Adam himself finding out how technology can help guarantee the future of rare farm animals. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

arm animals. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

9.00 Last Tango in Hailfax. Alan finally lets Celia into his secret about Gary, but is saddened when she punishes Caroline for his mistake – and on her wedding of all days. Gillian is left humiliated at work by an unexpected visit from Robbie's other half Cheryl, who reveals she knows the pair are sleeping together.

together.
10.00 BBC News; Regional News.
10.30 Match of the Day: FA Cup
Highlights. Mark Chapman
presents action from today's thirdround matches, which saw the
lower league sides aiming to

cause an upset against those from the Premier League and

Championship.

11.50 The Apprentice USA. New series.
Donald Trump kicks off another
celebrity edition, with candidates
including Gary Busey, Dionne
Warwick, Meat Loaf and David Cassidv selling pizzas

1.15 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.20

BBC₂

6.15 Great British Garden Revival. (R)
7.15 Glorious Gardens from Above. (R)
8.00 Countrylie. (R) 9.00 PA Gup
Revind: Third-Round Classiss. (R) 10.00
Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 11.30 Food
& Drink. (R) 12.00 The Great British Bake
Off Masterclass. (R) 1.00 Live Darts: BDO
World Championships. Coverage of the
second day of the tournament. 4.45 Ski
Sunday. 5.30 Coast. (R)

Sunday. 5.30 Coast. (R)
6.00 Tigers About the House – What Happened Next. Part two of two. The Clarks see the harsh reality of particular than the Clarks see the harsh reality of particular than the Clarks see the harsh reality of particular than the Clarks see the harsh reality of the Clarks see the first of the Clarks see the injured big cats in the wild. Back in Australia, Spot and Stripe are days away from their first birthday and will no longer be classed as cubs, while Spot faces an operation that may end with him losing all vision. (R)
7.00 Toe Gear Pataonia Suecial. Part

an obscing all vision. (R)

7.00 Top Gear Patagonia Special. Part one of two. Jermy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May take used sports cars on a gruelling trip to the world's southernmost city to stage a game of car lootball. (R)

8.00 Kate Humble – Into the Volcano. Part one of two. Kate joins a team of geologists on a research expedition to the Vanuatu archipelago in the southern Pacific, and explores the volcano of Mount Yasur on Tanisa. First of a two-part documentary in which

two-part documentary in which Steve Hewlett tells the inside story of the relationship between the on the relationship between the monarchy and the media during the past 20 years.

QI XL. Extendi

rine past 20 years.

10.00 QI XL. Extended edition. Jeremy Clarkson, Sandi Toksvig, Danny Baker and Alan Davies attempt to answer host Stephen Fry's range of fiendish questions on the topics of luck and loss.

10.45 Racing Legends: Barry Sheene.
Jim Moir (Vic Reeves) pays tribute
to the former motorcycle racing
world champion, examining how he rose to the top of his sport and became a popular public figure.

11.45 Darts: BDO World Championships. Action from the second day at the Lakeside Country Club in Frimley Green.

12.35 Darts Extra. 2.35 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) 3.35 Holby City. (R) 4.35 This Is BBC Two.

6.00 CITV- The Aquabats! Super Show!
6.25 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.35 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.40 Dino Dan. (R) 6.50 Dino Dan. (R) 7.65 Camimals. (R) 7.10 Camimals. (R) 7.20 Super Stories Share a Story. (R) 7.22 Super Stories Share a Story. (R) 7.20 Limitate Spider-Man. 8.15 Horrid Henry. (R) 8.30 Herds & Monsters. (R) 7.50 Limitate Spider-Man. 8.15 Horrid Henry. (R) 8.30 Herds & Monsters. (R) 9.00 beadtime Stories. (R) 9.25 Film: Columbo: Agenda for Murder. (1990) 11.15 TIV News; Weather. 11.25 Britain's Best Bakery. (R) 12.25 Inside the National Trust. (R) 1.25 River Monsters. (R) 1.55 Midsomer Murders. (R) 3.55 Film: On Her Majesty's Secret Service. (1969) James

Majesty's Secret Service. (1969) James Bond adventure, with George Lazenby. 6.35 Regional Programme: Weather 6.45 ITV News: Weather.

7.00 Diversity Live. An entertainment special with the street-dance crew, featuring a range of spectacular new routines and appearances by the street featuring a range of spectacular new routines and appearances by the street featuring at the st new routines and appearances by special guests. Fresh from their UK arena tour, the Britain's Got Talent 2009 winners flex their creative muscles and demonstrate how all forms of dance, from ballet and jazz to tap, have inspired their career. They also look at the major influences that have helped then along the way, as the programme charts the group's journey to stardom.

stardom.

8.00 Foyle's War. New series. Michael Kitchen returns to the role of Christopher Foyle, senior intelligence officer for MIS, in the first of three films. Foyle is drawn into the world of corrupt Nazi businessmen when a university professor is found murdered in a London park. When it transpires the width way workfore. the victim was working as a translator in Nuremberg, the detective realises there are powerful people trying to conceal secrets from the Second World War. Meanwhile, Sam War. Meanwhile, Sam (Honeysuckle Weeks) volunteers for a risky undercover job, despite being pregnant. Guest stars include John Mahoney (Frasier), Jaime Winstone (Mad Dogs) and Nigel Lindsay (Four Lions).

10.00 ITV News; Weather. 10.15 Film: Hot Fuzz. (2007) Action comedy, starring Simon Pegg and Nick Frost.

12.25 Premiership Rugby Union. 1.20 The Store. 2.55 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) 3.40 ITV Nightscreen. 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.10 NFL: The American Football Show. (R) 7.05 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.55 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.25 Frasier. (R) 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 8.25 Frasier. (R) 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch 12.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.55 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 1.20 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 1.50 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 1.50 Thim: Angus, Thongs and Perfect Snoggling. (2008). Comedy drama, starring Georgia Groome 3.50 Film: Diary of a Wimpy Kid. (2010) Family comedy, starring Tachary Gordon. 5.40 Channel 4 News.

6.05 A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. New series. Laura Hamilton advises former pub landlady Janice Gibson, who wants to swap her Newcastle lifestyle for a new start in the Mar Menor area of southern Spain.

southern Spain.

7.00 Phil Spencer Secret Agent. Phil Spencer is on the Mersey, trying to sell two properties with dodgy decor and problem pooches. Ron hasn't been able to part with his four-bedroom family home after 18 months on the market, and it looks like his beloved pug Janice is to blame. On the Wirral, Phil has got his hands full with Sandy and her six dogs.

8.00 The Hotel. Mark organises a record-breaking attempt to bake Britain's biggest some, but Cavendish owner Vicky does not have much faith in head chef Gerry's ability to puil it off.

erry's ability to pull it off.

9.00 Walking the Nile. New series. Levison Wood treks the length of the River Nile from source to sea, on a nine-month expedition taking him through jungles, savannahs, deserts, cities and war zones.

10.008 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown 18 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown Christmas Special. Jimmy Carr hosts the comedy panel show's version of the words-and-numbers quiz, with team captains Sean Lock and Jon Richardson joined by Kathy Burke and David Baddiel. (R)

Baddiel. (R)

1.05 Rude Tube: Welcome to 2015.

Alex Zane explores the 100 most popular internet videos of the past 12 months in a special edition of the show, featuring the spider-dog prank. (R)

prank. (R)
1.00 Film: Thirst. (2009) 3.15 The
Guides. (R) 3.30 Mesh: Tourist Trap. (R)
3.35 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners.
(R) 4.30 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. (R)
5.25 Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites.
(R) 5.40 Small Animal Hospital. (R)

CHANNEL 5

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshakel: Peppa Pig. 6.05 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 6.15 Angelina Ballerina. (R) 6.30 Pip Ahoyl (R) 6.40 The Mr Men Show. (R) 6.50 Choe's Closet. (R) 7.05 Oily the Little White Van. (R) 7.10 Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) 7.20 Make Way for Noddy. (R) 7.35 Paw Patrol 7.55 Little Princess. (R) 8.10 The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corty. (R) 8.25 Wanda and the Alien. 8.40 Zack and Ouack. (R) 8.55 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 9.15 Jelly Jamm. (R) 9.30 Lazy Town. (R) 10.00 Tempa eMutant Ninja Turtles. (R) 10.00 Tempa eMutan

5 News Weekend.

5.65 5 News Weekend.
7.05 Film: Rush Hour. (1998) A Hong Kong detective is sent to Los Angeles to investigate a kidnapping, but the local authorities worry that his presence in America might spark an international incident, and assign a loud-mouthed and troublesome cop to keep an eye on him.
However, the new partnership proves an explosive combination. Comedy adventure, starring Jackie Chan, Chris Tucker, Ken Leung, Tom Wilkinson and Chris Penn. Edited for language and violence.
9.00 Film: House at the End of the Street. (2011) Premiere. A teenager moves to a new area and discovers a nearby house was the

teenager moves to a new area and discovers a nearby house was the site of a horrifying incident in which a girl murdered her parents before disappearing without trace. She befriends the killer's troubled brother, but starts to worry that he may be hiding a terrifying secret. Horror, starring Jennifer Lawrence and Max Thieriot.

10.55 Film: Final Destination. (2000) A teenager's premonition saves his friends from dying in a plane crash, but their narrow escape is

crash, but their narrow escape is only the prelude to a chain of tragedies. Horror, with Devon Sawa and Ali Larter. 12.50 SuperCasino. 3.10 Can't Pay? Well Take It Away. (R) 4.00 House Doctor. (R) 4.25 Make It Big. (R) 5.15 Angles of Jam... (R) 5.40 Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the
Fourth Be with You 7.30 FA Cup's 50
Greatest Moments 8.30 World's Craziest
Fools 9.00 Russell Howard's Good News
10.00 Family Guy 10.45 American Dadl
11.30 FA Cup's 50 Greatest Moments
12.30 Russell Howard's Good News 1.30
Life Is Toff 4.00 Close

BBC Four

7.00 Sings Musicals 8.00 Mark Lawson Talks to PD James 9.00 Hermitage Revealed 10.00 Film: A Royal Affair (2012) 12.10 Top of the Pops: 1980 – Big Hits 1.10 The Carpenters at the BBC 1.45 Sings Musicals 2.45 Hermitage Revealed 3.45 Close

ITV2

12.5 Take Me Out 12.25 Take Me Out — The Gossip 1.10 Blue: The Hot Desk 1.25 Film: Richie Rich (1994) 2.0 Film: Beethoven's 2nd (1993) 5.10 Film: Scotby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed (2004) 7.00 Film: Evan Amighty (2007) 9.00 Film: Knocked Up (2007) 11.35 Film: Saw II (2005) 1.30 Fake Reaction 2.10 Blue: The Hot Desk 2.20 Teleshopping 5.50 ITV2 Nightscreen ITV3

ITV3

11.25 Wycliffe 12.40 Rosemary & Thyme
1.45 Film: Blue Murder at St Timian's
(1957) 3.35 Inspector Morse 5.55 Levis
8.00 The 209.00 It'll Be Airlight on the
Night 10.00 Northern Lights 11.00 Film:
Larry Crowne (2011) 1.05 The Memoirs of
Sheflock Holmes 2.00 Countrywise 2.50
Judge Judy 3.10 ITV3 Nightscreen 3.40
Emmerdal

ITV4
2.55 Storage Wars 6.10 Film: The
Cimarron Kid (1952) 8.00 Premiership
Rugby Union 9.00 Film: Troy (2004) 12.15
Film: This Is Spinal Tap (1984) 1.55 The
Cycle Show 2.45 ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00
Teleshopping 3.30 The Store 4.30 Teleshopping

12.30 Melissa & Joey 1.30 How I Met Your Mother 2.00 The Big Bang Theory 4.00 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 5.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 6.00 The Big Bang Theory 8.00 Film: Home Alone 2: Lost in New York (1992) 10.20 The Inbetweeners 11.30 Made in Chelsea: End of Season Party 12.30 Virtually Famous 1.25 Rules of Engagement 2.20 The 100 3.00 The Ricky Gervais Show 3.30 Hollyoaks

Film4
11.00 A Ticket to Tomahawk (1950) 1.00
Leap Year (2010) 3.00 Journey to the
Center of the Earth (2008) 4.50 Lemons
Sinicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events
(2004) 6.55 Tower Heist (2011) 9.00
Battleship (2012) 11.35 Alife (1966) 1.50
Wrong Turn 2: Dead End (2007) 3.50 Close

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Chronicle

Stolen Child, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A couple who have tried unsuccessfully to conceive resort to adopting a baby from Eastern Europe they discover the disturbing series of events that brought the child into their lives. Drama, starring Emmanuelle Vaugier and Corbin Bernsen. (2012)

Dinner for Schmucks, BBC1, 11,50pm

An ambitious executive hopes to win a mean-spirited contest held by his bosses to find the most ridiculous dinner-party guest for everyone to mock. He thinks he has found the perfect winning entry when he meets a dim-witted and socially awkward amateur taxidermist but has to contend with pretending they are friends.
Comedy, with Steve Carell and Paul Rudd. (2010)

Little Fockers, BBC1, 11.05pm
Nurse Greg is now the proud father of twins, but has yet to earn the respect of his wife's stern father after 10 years of marriage. The couple invite both sides of their extended family to the kids' birthday party, where Greg makes a desperate effort to finally prove his worth to his father-in-law. Comedy sequel, with Ben Stiller, Robert De Niro, Owen Wilson and Dustin Hoffman. (2010)



A Time to Remember, Channel 5, 3,15pm

A middle-aged single mother returns under a cloud to the family home for Thanksgiving, where she tries to heal the fractured relationship between herself and her estranged mother. However, any possible reconciliation is threatened by an unexpected and dramatic development. Drama, starring Dana Delany, Doris Roberts, Megan Gallagher, Louise Fletcher, Rosemary Forsyth, Robert Bauer, Erich Anderson, Amy Stell, Davenia McFadden and Michael Dean Jacobs. (2003)

The Invention of Lying, ITV, 10.40pm

In a world where everyone always tells the truth, a failed documentary writer learns how to lie. Since no one else knows what deception is, his most ludicrous inventions are taken at face value, making him a huge success – and ultimately leading to him starting his own religion. Comedy, starring Ricky Gervais, Jennifer Garner, Jonah Hill, Louis CK, Jeffrey Tambor, Fionnula Flanagan, Rob Lowe and Tina Fey. (2009)

PICK OF THE WEEK

Duo return to unravel another mysterious case

repare to be gripped to the TV again – yes, David Tennant and Olivia Coleman are back as Alec Hardy and Ellie Miller in the second series of the drama that kept the nation on the edge of its seats in March 2012. March 2013.

Broadchurch made such a massive Broadchurch made such a massive impact on its initial broadcast that it's hard to believe it's almost two years since it made its debut; and this sequel is one of the most eagerly awaited programmes of recent years.

The original run focused on the murder of 11-year-old Danny Latimer. For eight weeks, viewers attempted to guess whodunit, and were shocked when it was revealed – spoiler alert – that it was Ellie's husband Joe who was the culprit. We also cheered her on when she gave him a kicking after discovering the truth.

Both Ellie and Hardy were expected to leave the police force after solving the murder – she to perhaps start a new life with her sons elsewhere, and he due to ill health – but neither of them seems to have been able to leave the sleepy Jodie Whittaker also returns as Danny's pregnant mum Beth, while Andrew Buchan, Arthur Darvill, Jonathan Bailey, Carolyn Pickles, Tanya Franks, Joe Sims, Simone McAullay, Adam Wilson and Chaddet Designation and Charlotte Beaumont also reprise their

But there are a few newcomers too, including Eve Myles, Marianne Jean-Baptiste, Meera Syal, James D'Arcy and Charlotte Rampling.

"The whole Broadchurch team has "The whole Broadchurch team has been delighted and properly gobsmacked by the response from ITV viewers," says writer Chris Chibnall. "When I first talked to Peter Fincham and Laura Mackie, ITV's Director of Drama about Broadchurch, I mentioned that if people liked it, there was another very different story we could tell afterwards. I'm really thrilled we're going to tell that story too." "It's such a privilege to be able to

"It's such a privilege to be able to work with Chris to bring the next chapter of Broadchurch to our screens," adds executive producer Jane Featherstone. "And although we're giving nothing away right now, I

can tell you it's going to keep on delivering surprises and scale." For now, nobody is willing to say what the surprises are, or even what the story is about – we're all going to have to tune in to find out. However, there is a clue out there for anyone with the time and patience to look for

At the Harrogate Crime Writing Festival in July, Chibnall, Colman and Whittaker helped launch the Broadchurch novelisation alongside author Erin Kelly. She revealed that Chibnall had added a sentence close to her publication deadline that gave a hint of what the sequel would be about.

It's been announced that Rampling will play a character called Jocelyn who didn't appear in the first series - but her house is featured on a map of the town in the book, and she is also mentioned. Could she be the key to the story?

Maybe - fans are already discussing the theory on the internet, and it will certainly be interesting to find out if they're right.



Olivia Colman and David Tennant star in Broadchurch, Monday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

Richard Wilson on the Road

ITV, 8pm New series. The One Foot in the Grave star tours the UK in a vintage 1960s car, but there's no satnav for him – he's using guidebooks first published in the 1930s. Beginning in the heart of the Derbyshire countryside, the actor learns about the Kinder Scout uprising that led to the freedom to oam the Derbyshire Dales.

Rich, Russian and Living in London BBC2, 9pm

Documentary exploring the lives of wealthy Russians who have chosen to make London their home, looking at why they favoured the city and their obsessions with the English education system, polo and the monarchy. The film follows an art collector; and an entrepreneur who says he was chased out of Russia for his liberal views and growing bank balance, as well as revealing more about the life of a supermodel and two debutantes preparing for the glitz and glamour of the restigious Russian ball

Silent Witness BBC1, 9pm

New series. Nikki and Jack are called to a petrol

station where three people have been shot dead and conclude it is the work of a concealed shooter working from long range - a sniper is at large in London. They combine ballistics and wound pathology with the killer-profiling skills of senior investigator DCL lane De Freitas, as they work to find this seemingly random murderer before panic hits the city. Continues tomorrow.

WEDNESDAY Celebrity Big Brother: Live Launch

Channel 5, 9pm New series. The fly-on-the-wall fun begins once more as Emma Willis invites a fresh group of famous faces to move in together and have their every word and move recorded for the enjoyment of the viewing public. This time round, the famous residents will be taking part in their own fairy tale, although with Big Brother in charge, it is unlikely they are going to live happily ever after. The newly designed house has whimsical elements conjuring up a magical atmosphere full of possibility – but there are also hints that

something more sinister is lurking. It's to be hoped that BB fans don't have anything else planned for the

Death in Paradise BBC1, 9pm

Chances are you know the Death In
Paradise format by now: a character is killed on the idvllic Caribbean island of Saint Marie; there's a host of eclectic associates who may have done the deed, and it's up to the likes of DI Humphrey Goodman (Kris Marshall), DS Camille Bordey (Sara Martins), and Officer Dwayne Myers (Danny John-Jules) to get to the bottom of the mystery The first victim of series four is

plantation owner and businessman, Elias Thomson he is brutally killed at his home during a group séance. The door to the room is firmly closed, so everyone at the scene is a suspect, but how did the killer go unseen when all participants - including Elias' kids, Daniel and Lucy - were holding

hands throughout the séance?

FRIDAY

Xtreme Endurance Race to the Pole Channel 5, 7pm

New series. Former rugby union player Richard Parks takes on a series of endurance events in preparation for his ultimate goal of becoming the fastest-ever person to ski unassisted to the South Pole from the coast of Antarctica. Richard's first gruelling challenge takes him to Nepal to participate in the Yak Attack, a mountain-bike race during which he battles against blistering heat, extreme cold near-fatal collisions, sheer drops and extreme altitude on a course that winds 400 kilometres across the Himalayas.

The Musketeers BBC1, 9pm

King Louis is tired of his cosseted roval lifestyle and demands to see things the way his carefree subjects do. But what starts out as a night of fun quickly descends into terror when he and d'Artagnan are mistaken for real commoners and kidnapped by the notorious criminal Lemaitre, who plans to sell them to Spain as slaves. It's left to the remaining three Musketeers to rescue the king and their comrade - can they save them from mortal danger and return Louis to the palace in time for his son's christening? One person who seems grateful for the king's absence is Rochefort.



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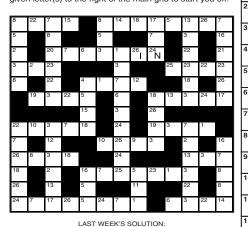


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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 1. Approve a human face (11)
- 9. One gets nothing for it (3)
- 10. Will it shoot itself? (9)
- 11. General secretaries? (5)
- 13. Fresh letters of support? (7)
- 14. Yet his talk is far from uplifting (3-3)
- 16. Specify how a token may be regarded? (6)
- 18. A dancer on tour perhaps (7) 19. It may be a nasty demonstration.
- though in play (5) 20. Taking in and finding very interesting
- (9) 21. Apt to have a sudden attack (3)
- 22. Scottish family needs it made secret (11)

Down

Double Crossword Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both

- 2. You have to do so (3)
- 3. Gets close in linear size (5)
- 4. Set out and consumed what was left? (6)
- 5. A smile's unambitious outcome (7)
- 6. Good barbers do it - only just in time (3,2,4)
- 7. Immediately erect a road (11)
- 8. The shooting of unknown persons? (11)
- 12. Sacking one ship in dreary surroundings (9) 15. Sold by chemists in
- Paris perhaps (7) 17. Possibly aspire to commend (6)
- 19. Seeing sense (5)
- 21. Cool an ardent admirer (3)

Quick Clues:

Across

- 1. Unwise (11)
- 9. Pinch (3) 10. Enchant (9)
- **11.** Upright (5) **5.** Copy (7)
- 13. Chronicler (7)
- 14. Suit of woollen cloth (6) 16. Pious (6)
- 18. Intrigue (7)
- 19. Attack (5)
- 20. Garment-making (9)
- 21. Also (3)
- 22. Powerful (11)

Down

- 2. Doze (3)
- 3. Unsuitable (5)
- 4. Interior (6)

- 6. Of one mind (9)
- 7. Barrenness (11)
- 8. Reinstatement (11)
- 12. Height (9)
- 15. Plunder (7)
- 17. Complete (6)
- 19. Should (5)
- 21. Beverage (3)

Sudoku

	6						7	
3			9	7	4			5
		5		2		9		
8	7						5	9
		6	7		5	8		
4	5						3	7
			1	8				
5			2	9	6		1	4
	1						9	

Fill in the grid below so that every column every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

;	SOLUTIONS >								
	7	4	1	2	3	5	9	8	6
	2	5	8	9	7	6	1	3	4
	6	3	9	1	8	4	2	7	5
	9	6	3	4	2	7	5	1	8
	1	8	2	3	5	9	4	6	7
	5	7	4	8	6	1	3	9	2
	4	9	7	6	1	2	8	5	3
	3	2	5	7	9	8	6	4	1
	8	1	6	5	4	3	7	2	9

LAST WEEK'S

The Chronicle

Thursday, January 1, 2015

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Pass; 3 Spyglass; 9 Learned; 10 Often; 11 Imprecations; 13 Turtle; 15 Aghast; 17 Rough diamond; 20 Crown; 21 Pension; 22 Disperse; 23 News. Down: 1 Palliate; 2 Sharp; 4 Pediar; 5 Growing pains; 6 Antenna; 7 Sons; 8 Intelligence; 12 Students; 14 Riotous; 16 Adopts; 18 Opine; 19 Acid. OUICK - Across: 1 Sobs; 3 Advocate; 9 Abscess; 10 Fosue; 11 Dispossessed; 13 Rarest; 15 Recess: - Across: 1 Soos; 3 Advocate; 9 Adscess, 10 Ensue; 11 Dispossessed; 13 Rarest; 15 Recess; 17 Improvidence; 20 Egret; 21 Ignored; 22 Fiendish; 23 Lend. Down: 1 Standard; 2 Bais; 4 Desist; 5 Overspending; 6 Austere; 7 Even; 8 Remonstrated; 12 Ascended; 14 Remorse; 16 Audids: 14 Disposs Avoids: 18 Nurse: 19 Deaf.

Quiz

Which form of political corruption was named after US politician Elbridge Gerry?

| N | G | C | O | Z | F | L | H | B | M | R | W | V

- Who received an Oscar for his performance in Going My Way?
- In which country was Vivien Leigh born?
- What type of creature is the firefly?
- What did Hippolyte Mege-Mouries invent in 1889?
- 6. In which ocean are the Mariana Islands?
- Which sci-fi author wrote the screenplay for 2001: A Space Odyssey?

24 **N**

- What is the kernel of the tree Myristica fragrans called? Which actor/dancer was born Frederick
- Austerlitz? 10. Which vehicle is named from the Hindi

for 'Lord of the World'?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Lager; 2 Plaice; 3 Constantinople;

4 St Christopher; 5 Daniel Day-Lewis; 6

Chopin: 7 Daisv: 8 Duchess Of Kent: 9

Taurus: 10 Hispaniola Niner: INCUBATOR

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters

gives a bird,

gives a female animal, 818 365 gives a male animal.

Property



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Fast Fiesta desirable

By Ian Donaldson

Nobody actually needs a car as fast as a Ferrari - or the more modest Ford tested here. But put your foot down in either and you'll want one, rather a lot.

It's the noise that does it first. And 'm not talking about Italy's most famous fast car either; the Ford makes sounds so seductive they tempt you to prod the throttle to hear them again.

The eager warble (from a mere three tiny cylinders) is addictive. But then so is the iesta itself, a special edition of Britain's most popular car and this time aimed at driver's who want fun without breaking the

Ford already makes a fast Fiesta, with the potent ST that's proved a satisfying giant killer and starts from £17,250. It's tempting to call the car you see here an STlite, but that would do it an injustice

It might cost less (not all that much less, to be honest) but there are other savings, with a reduced thirst for fuel, a much more friendly insurance rating (group 15 plays group 30) and less road tax - £20 versus £130 from year two.

You get less performance for the gentler assault on your pocket; the ST is properly fast, while the Red or Black Edition is simply lively. But you're most unlikely to complain after a good blast along a favourite

The poise and polish engineered into the way the Red Edition copes with our awful roads is enough to shame the efforts of too many rival car companies; the Fiesta

staying comfortably firm and totally in con-

Unlike a Ferrari, which will take you deep into dangerous speed territory before it starts to enjoy itself, the Fiesta will have you smiling whatever modest speed is displayed on its mildly fussy instrument

panel.
This fastish Fiesta comes in two colours; a Red Edition for £15.995 and the Black Edition at £16,495.

The former is red all over, with a black roof and door mirrors, while the other one has that paint scheme in reverse, with the addition of a red lipstick smear around the radiator grille.

Flashy

And very smart the new paint job looks too, comfortably the right side of flashy but distinctive enough to draw looks of admiration from armies of young blokes who wish they earned enough to afford one. One day, chaps..

But it's the engine which dominates proceedings, producing an outrageous amount of power for something this tiddly.

More horses for its tiny size, in fact, than any other car you can buy, Ferraris includ-

Other Black and Red Edition features are black 17ins alloy wheels, leather wraps for steering wheel and gearchange gaiter and a leather trimmed handbrake with red

Oh, and floor mats with red around the edges too.

Missing is a gearbox with a sixth speed, leaving the engine spinning faster at a motorway cruise than it might otherwise.

In fact, the car is a fine M-way machine,

humming along quietly at the legal limit so



'Ford Fiesta beats Ferrari. long as the surface is smooth - coarser

roads make those bigger tyres hum a bit. Fuel consumption will be miles away from the near 63mpg of the official figure - the test car showed 45.3mpg after it's week on test. But the ST would be much thirstier

Like all Fiestas, the dashboard is beginning to look a bit over complicated; what was once a stylish homage to a mobile phone keypad is now too full of small buttons as phones have turned neat and mi

But this Ford is about driving pleasure. The nicely positive gearchange and steering without a trace of slack testify to the depth of development that's gone into this machine.

You can pay ten times as much for your motoring pleasure (are you listening Ferrari?) and your grin won't be any wider as you switch off the ignition. Promise.



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Thursday, January 1, 2015

Goofy and wacky but the Adam works so well

By David Banner

The Vauxhall ADAM is undoubtedly one of the more interesting small car choices around. It's hugely customisable both inside and out and looks strong.

There are two 1.4-litre engines with either 87PS or 100PS. We tried the lower powered of the two. Both are mated to a fivespeed manual gearbox which again makes motorway journeys less than ideal as they could benefit from a longer gear for better refinement and economy.

The engine is 'tried and tested' which means it's a little long in the tooth and needs working to get the best from it. Go with the 87PS unit and you'll see 62mph appear on the clocks in 12.5 seconds on the way to a top speed of 110mph. In comparison, the 100PS engine's numbers are 11.5s and 125mph. The ADAM incorporates a 'floating' roof which is visually disconnected from the body and which works particularly well with two-tone colour schemes.

It looks like no other Vauxhall but still incorporates a

bunch of existing styling cues such as the Astra's wing-shaped chrome grille bar and the blade shape in the lower doors. Like MINI, Vauxhall is looking to appeal to the cus-tomer's sense of individuality in the sheer amount of colour combinations and materials. Wheels range from 16 inches in size for entry-level cars and there are 17-inch options further up the range.

There's extensive use of body-coloured trim inserts, not only on the dashboard but also reaching along the centre console and onto the steering wheel and these can give the interior a real riotous personality. You can even swap them out for a different colour or finish if bored.

A seven-inch touch screen interface is the big point of interest from a technological perspective. It's both iPhone and Android compatible and can access downloaded apps.
Where specified, the navigation and infotainment con-

trols are all marshalled by the touch screen. There's even a choice of headlining, including an LED-lit starlight roof trim.

The exterior colours include 'I'll be Black', 'Papa don't Peach', 'Purple Fiction', 'James Blonde', 'Saturday White Fever' and 'Buzz Lightgreen'. The ADAM has three trim levels, JAM (fashionable/colourful), GLAM (elegant/sophisticat-ed) and SLAM (racy/sporty) and both 1.4-litre engines are available with all three trim levels.

JAM opens with air conditioning, a CD DAB radio with

USB, AUX-in and Bluetooth, a leather trimmed steering wheel with deco elements, cruise control and infotainment control. Go for the GLAM and there's electronic climate control, front & rear LED lights, a fixed glazed sunroof and an exterior chrome pack. SLAM weighs in with 17-inch alloy wheels, Morrocana sports seats, and a two tone roof and darkened rear glass.

The latest generation ESP system is standard on all AD-AMs and it also includes a Hill Start Assist function. That wonderful star-effect roof and a heated steering wheel are options that differentiate the Vauxhall from the run of the mill city car contenders and these surprise and delight features are key in a market that's not always led fully by upfront pricing. Talking of which, prices for the 1.4-litre models open at just over £11,500 and top out at little over £14,000. What's more, the options prices have been kept very reasonable so should you really want to stamp your own impression on the car, it won't cost you the earth nor destroy the residual value of the car. Unless, that is, you go for a distinctly questionable colour combination!

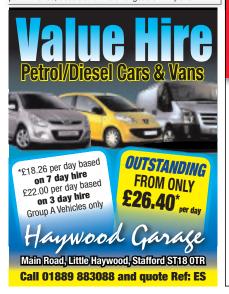
Right, pay attention here because things get a little more involved. You remember I said there were two versions of the 1.4- litre engine. I lied. Only a little but there are in fact four. Each version of the 1.4-litre is available in either a standard guise or as an ecoFLEX version with Stop/Start. This clearly has the biggest impact on emissions.

Vauxhall reckons there are over a million different combi-

nations of options – it's a car without parallel.

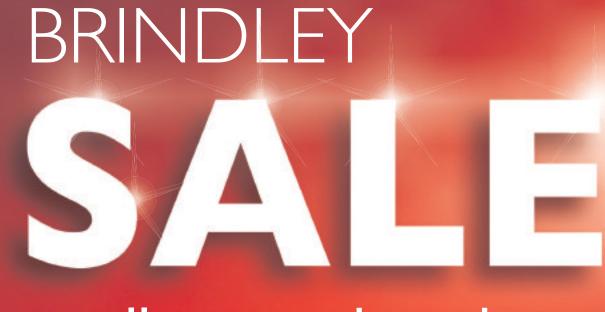
Sometimes it's fun to just be a bit goofy and not care and

the ADAM fulfils that requirement perfectly with its wacky paint finishes, decals and interchangeable trim parts.









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DRIVETIME

Practicality and performance

By Sharon Walters

I have to put my hands up - I am a bit of a car snob when it comes to estates. Many of the family orientated and middle of the road ones are, well, just plain boring and dull. Dull to look at because they are just the saloon version with a bit added on without thought to style, and to drive. Although, don't get me wrong, they do just what they are intended to.

Move up the price scale and there are some great estates. Ones that look fantastic because more thought has gone into the design and ones which are so pleasing to get behind the wheel of and hit the road.

There are some exceptions, however, and the 308 SW from Peugeot is one. It is based on the multi awarding winning 308 which is currently European Car of the Year – an award that was very well deserved.

The Peugeot 308 SW is that rarity – a compact estate car that not only looks good but is practical too. It also has a classy interior, a state-of-the-art chassis and excellent efficiency numbers.

Forget what you thought you knew about small estates. This one comes with a rare injection of desirability. And indeed attracted high praise indeed from one of my friends who is even more picky about her cars!

The 308 SW rides on the same chassis as the hatch and the ride is refined with a relaxed gait. There's no bouncing about even on the single and rather off the beaten track roads the sat nav took me to during a trip to the Forest of Dean. The electrically-assisted power steering is geared to-wards ease of use rather than detailed feedback but perhaps that's just as well. It makes the 308 SW very comfortable around town in the sort of usage it will mostly see. And I like the compact steering wheel which makes it feel quite sporty.

The petrol engine line up is based around a

PureTech 1.2-litre e-THP three-cylinder engine of-fering either 110 or 130bhp. The diesel option is a 1.6-litre turbo with a base version with 92bhp or

an e-HDi model with 115bhp and Stop-Start. Next up are the new generation BlueHDi diesels, either a 1.6 with 120bhp or a 2.0-litre unit with 150bhp, the latter with the option of auto transmission.

It's hardly surprising that the 308 SW scores highly as Peugeot has a track record in this sector. Since the arrival of the 304 in 1969, every generation of the 300 series has included an estate variant and estates tend to mop up around 10 per cent of C-segment cars. This one might account for a little more than one in ten Peugeot 308 sales. There's usually a lot of nonsense spoken by car stylists but the buzzwords around the 308 SW really do ring true. Stretched, slender, fluid and dynamic, it's anything but your usual hatchback with an afterthought of a bigger boot rather clumsily attached.

There's plenty of space in the back, 660-litres,

which includes 70-litres of storage under the floor. Fold down the Magic Flat rear seats which allow instant folding of both parts of the rear seat which provide a flat floor and 1,660-litres of luggage space. Space and practicality are enhanced by the vertical side walls which have minimal wheel arch intrusion. Plus the load sill is among the lowest of any estate car.

Prices start from around £17,000 and all models include Bluetooth, air conditioning and a DAB radio. One of the biggest attractions of the interior

is the 9.7-inch multi-function infotainment touch screen but you don't get that on the entry Access

The range-topping Feline model gets leather and Alcantara seats, or you can pay a bit more and go for full leather. This features subtle stitching, some impressive fluting and a particularly comfortable shape. The optional electric adjustment includes a variable massage function. Open the cover on the panoramic full-length glass roof and you feel you are in a swanky limo.

Minus point for me is the electric parking brake – perhaps it's an age thing about feeling uncomfortable with it – but the one fitted to the 308 is better than others.

Thanks to a weight-loss programme the car has less to do and the result is better fuel economy and those nasty emissions.

No diesel engine in the 308 SW range emits more than 111g/km. The new BlueHDi 1.6-litre 120bhp diesel which, when linked to a six-speed manual gearbox, records a combined cycle fuel consumption figure of some 88.3mpg and emissions of 85g/km; a record in the segment.

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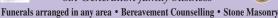
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Please note that the deadline for our weekly Cannock Chronicle is 11.30am every Tuesday for the same weeks edition.

CHRISTMAS DEADLINES

Thursday, December 18. There will be no publication

Thursday, December 25.

Deadline Wednesday, December 17, at 2.30pm.

Thursday, January 1 Deadline Monday, December 22, at 11am.

HARDWARE

Len

Of Heath Hayes, passed away on December 17, 2014, aged 80 years.

The devoted Husband of Muriel and beloved Dad of Nigel, reunited with Daughter Susan. Also a loving Grandad, Great-Grandad, Brother, Uncle, Father-in-law and Friend.

Donations in lieu of flowers to Spina Bifida UK c/o Funeral Directors.

Len is now resting in a private chapel of repose at Brindley House Funeral Home.

All Funeral details from

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SEIRBHIS

POOLE

Nigel

September 18 1946 to December 19, 2014.

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of Nigel Poole, loving Husband to Maureen.

Funeral arrangements to be announced shortly and all those who knew Nigel and Maureen are invited to attend the Funeral Service.

TUDOR

Raymond

Passed away suddenly on December 13, 2014, aged 62

years.

There was no time to say goodbye, you'll always be in our hearts Dad.

Sadly missed by Daughters Sheila and Charlotte, Sons Graham and Raymond and Grandchildren Luke, Sarah, Samuel, Megan, Leo, Ava, Gracie and Harry.

MYRING Yvonne

TUDOR

Raymond

Passed away suddenly on December 13, 2014, aged 62

years. There was no one there to hold your hand or say a last goodbye.

God bless you Ray.

Sadly missed by Sister Sheila, Brother-in-law John and Family.

in memoriam

Two years on December 26, 2014.

Another year has come and gone, in our hearts you still live on.

Love Brother Malc and Kay. хх

O'TOOLE

Sean David, One year January 4th.

Son, thinking of you is easy we do it every day but missing you is heartache that never

goes away. Love you forever

Mom and Dad.

X X X

YAPP

Mark Six years January 2

Never more than a thought away, still loved, missed and pered every day

God bless my Son. Mom.

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Tuesday, December 23	8.30am - 5.30pm
Christmas Eve, Wed 24	8.30am till 2pm
Christmas Day, Thurs 25	Closed
Boxing Day, Friday 26	Closed
Saturday, December 27	Closed as normal
Monday, December 29	8.30am - 5.30pm
Tuesday, December 30	8.30am - 5.30pm
New Years Eve, Wed 31	8.30am till 2pm
New Years Day, Thurs 1	Closed
Friday, January 2	8.30am – 5.30pm
Saturday, January 3	Closed as normal

Please note that our deadlines will be subject to change considerably over the Christmas period.
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All applications may be inspected at the Civic Centre, Beecroft Road,

Applications relating to Rugeley and Brereton may also be inspected at the Rugeley Area Housing Office, Anson Street, Rugeley

The Council has published a Service Charter for publicity and information about planning applications and a Code of Conduct for the Planning Process both of which are obtainable from Council Offices free of charge

If you wish to make comments about any of the above proposals you should do so in writing to the Planning Services Manager, Civic Centre Beecroft Road, Cannock, WS111BG by 22/01/2015 Please include a daylime telephone number in your reply and quote the appropriate



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AMANDA 5ft 4ins slim fit attractive, enjoys promoting the outdoors, nice wine, theatre etc. seeking romantic considerate soul mate to broaden metals in the outdoors. File No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 41237 \$\frac{1}{2}\$ 41386 \$\f

41343 \$\frac{1}{2}\$ ANGIE attractive slim blonde just looking for LUCY, broadminded 18yrs seeks discreef tunk through many age. Aca. Tel No: 0905 002 \$10.00 \text{No: 414739 \$\frac{1}{2}}\$ ANGIE attractive, seeks sincere, JANET tall beautiful brunette, slim 12, of someone to look after me. Tel No: 0905 100.00 \$10.00 \text{No: 416736 \$\frac{1}{2}}\$ alovely spontaneous guy who like me just looking for look of the me. Tel No: 0905 100.00 \$10.00 \text{No: 416736 \$\frac{1}{2}}\$ alovely spontaneous guy who like me just looking for look of the me. Tel No: 0905 500 3955 Box No: 416473 \$\frac{1}{2}\$ alovely spontaneous guy who like me just look ing for someone to look after me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410641 \$\frac{1}{2}\$ wards good company and a nice relationship. Wast similar guy this similar gu

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SALLY, 39yre large cuddly lady seeks slight ner for discreet meetings. Text Only 4550133 B

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JEN stractive sensual petite blonde with plothed with paired cold withing acting and petite blonded with ploth of withing acting and petite blonded withing acting and petite blonded with ploth of withing acting and petite blonded withing a 23YR old Asian female, seeks sugar daddy, any age for fun and much more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415367 0 CATH 37yr old very bored housewife seeking bored male for some fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414497 0

TRUDY 36yrs, with broadminded men of any age/area for daytime meetings. Text Only 4550194

ANN looking for no strings adult fun, proadminded and great fun, blonde, attractive and discreet. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955

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VOUNG looking female, likes rock music, concerts, theatre, seeks Rock male with similar interests for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418496 \$\frac{1}{2}\$ mature student with happy disposition, enjoys meals or drinks in/out, keeping fit, walking, seeks and the control of the con similar interests for relationship. Tel No: 0906
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MELANIE, 38, slim, blonde and bored. Call
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WANDY very attractive, slim single mum 36yrs, employed, OHAC, looking to share some quality times with similar genuine kind hearted social male/dad. Tel No: 0906 500

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B SYLVIA attractive blonde size 12 45yr old temale looking for genuine companionship, someone to spend quality times with, enjoy music and cosy times together. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415543 ₿

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SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult tun, any area, all calls answered. Tel No: 9986 902 1883 Box No: 414727 8 KAREN 50, widow, likes swimming, horse anawered. Tel No: 9986 902 1883 Box No: 413399 Sox No: 415319 Sox No: 415319 Sox No: 415319 Sox No: 415319 Sox No: 4153119 Sox No

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ADVENTUROUS sexy lady, 38yrs, married but seeks no strings fun with discreet man, any age. I'm tall, slim and dominant. Aca. Tel Nov. 9056 002 1937 Box Nov. 415301 |

3955 Box No: 415007

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ANGIE 38yrs slim blonde, ex model with HELEN feisty redhead with many interests lovely long legs with shapely figure, fit, toned, including beach walks and quiet nights in, sporty, confident but warm, WLTM similar perceptive, sensitive individual for fit. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 14723

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LUCY beautiful busty bubbly blonde 32yrs, seeking naughty boy to enjoy the fun side of life with, age, status and looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411691

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JEAN young at heart lady, active, 70 plus, N/S, GSCPI, likes walks, gardening, outings, WLTM sincere, caring male, 69-74 for companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 313945 500 3955 Box No: 314063 500 3955 Box No: 3140

RITA naughty 40's petite pretty female looking for that special man in my life. any vocung for that special man in my life, any PHL 5.7 OHAC, discreet, seeke no strings age, to get to know and see what happens, fun with younger female. Tel No: 0906 500 you only live once remember! 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414891 §

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companionship and sharing good times v Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415609 SHAUN 26 likes walking, singing, music, would like to meet someone my own age for friendship maybe relationship. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4567328



going male, 68, GSOH, seeks warm, genuine lady, 59-72 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414151

TALL slim gent, 60, seeks slim, attractive lady for no strings relationship. 20U 3955 Box No: 413925 \$\frac{1}{2}\$ TALL slim gent, 60, seeks slim, attractive lady for no strings relationship. Discretion assured cheeky, tactile, fun, own teeth, loves life, Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412227 \$\frac{1}{2}\$ seeks similar fun female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412227 \$\frac{1}{2}\$ MALE 49, 6ft, seeks lady for discreet fun and romantic dates. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 41067 \$\frac{1}{2}\$ Systems at the control of the contr

3955 Box No: 414067 ∄ times. Must accom. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 34YR old slim, dark haired, creative deventurous, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks likeminded female to share fun and happiness with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 352753 times and LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413375

seekis tall, furny, ind chap, Shropshire. 9906
STEPHEN 58, good looking, likes art, travel, 500 9955 Box No.: 411459 §
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JOHN 5ft 10in

PROFESSIONAL #4991 @

PROFESSIONAL #49 looking for fun and good times with voluptuous lady. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4574340 @

GARY 6ft 2ins, dark hair, brown eyes, medium build, likes nights in/out, seeks female, 30-50. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414845

with broadminded mature woman, 65 plus. 412463 ☐
Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414983 ☐
ROY 6ft 2ins, late 50's, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414775 ☐
500 3955 Box No: 414775 ☐
500 3955 Box No: 411713 ☐



unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413067

TONY young looking 50, 5ft 8ins, slim, slim rock chick, trendy for dates and LT No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413049

NORTH Shropshire male, 67, N/S, solvent,

GSOH, likes walks, travel, music, holidays, countryside, seeks N/S lady for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412867

MALCOLM 61, smoker, great personality likes coach holidays, drives, pubs, meals out nights out, 60's music, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412523 🗒

TALL slim gent, 60, seeks slim, attractive lady for no strings relationship. Discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412227 🖁

7 JEFF young 62, N/S, tall, fit, e

JOHN 5ft 10ins, slim, GSOH, various interests, seeks female for friendship/relationship, 35-52. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413107 🖲

Men seeking men

female, 30-50. Tel No: 0906 500 3935 Box travel, classic cars, comedy, seeks similar No: 414845 SLIM male, 59, seeks no strings adult fun with broadminded mature woman, 65 plus. 412463 SLIM male for LTR. London/Shropshire anywhere. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: with broadminded mature woman, 65 plus.

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RITA attractive blonde with a very kind heart seeks special man to share my life with Please get in touch if like me you are fed up with always being the single friend. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412987 © KIM 25yrs feminine, pretty, big blue eyes,

SONYA slim attractive vibrant lady with GSOH, social nature, fit/active, WLTM N/S male up to 60yrs for romantic genuine respectful relationship, loving. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413441 €

EMMA petite slim blue eyed blonde 22yrs, likes cinema, dancing/music, just chillin, seeking easygoing male for fun and good times but nothing serious. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413207 € seeking easygoing male for fun and good times but nothing serious. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411775 \$\end{bmass}\$ but nothing serious. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411775 \$\end{bmass}\$ but nothing serious. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411775 \$\end{bmass}\$ but nothing serious. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411775 \$\end{bmass}\$ but nothing serious. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411775 \$\end{bmass}\$ box No: 411775 \$

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KIM 25yrs feminine, pretty, big blue eyes, GSOH, varied interests, likes romantic beach

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PAULINE attractive divorced female with no

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GENUINE guy looking for uncomplicated fun with lady up to 50 txt only will answer all txt. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4202609 🖞

KEVIN 53, looking for a friend/partner and a lover. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:

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Nail-biter settled by Peach penalty

Wednesbury 19
Burntwood RUFC 21
FOR the third match running, Burntwood were involved in a nail-biting finish – and this one went to the very lock light of the to the very last kick of the game. as Will Peach fired over a penalty from close to the left touchline.

to the left touchline.

It hadn't looked likely when Ben Holt's outfit trailed 19-3 after just 17 minutes but that was as good as it got for Wednesbury.

The hosts went ahead after five minutes with a

The hosts went ahead after five minutes with a converted try and three minutes later drove over for their second score.

A Peach penalty put Burntwood on the sheet before Wednesbury completed their scoring with a penalty try.

The visitors spent much of the rest of the half in Wednesbury territory but

Wednesbury territory but could make no impression on the scoreline until a second Peach penalty. Brett Taylor dummied the last defender for a try

in the corner, then added a second, converted, score. A Burntwood win looked unlikely when Luke Rookyard was yel-low carded for the rest of low carded for the rest of the contest, but in time added on, the hosts' No 6 was carded for an illegal tackle and Peach kicked home the resulting pen-alty.

Call-up for strikers a Wolves test

KENNY JACKETT admits KENNY JACKETT admits his side will be tested by next month's African Cup of Nations. The return of Nouha Dicko from injury in the 1-1

Dicko from injury in the 1-1 draw with Brighton gave his side a welcome boost.

But the boss admitted likely Mali call-ups for Sako and Dicko for the tournament in Morocco starting on January 17 were a concern.

Jackett said: "Bakary is a player we are going to miss in January and there is the possibility of Nouha going as well.

as well.

as well.

"It's about making sure that along the front line we've got as many possibilities as we can.

"The good thing is that the transfer window is opening during that period."

Geddes' golden goal goes global



Sean Geddes scores his "rabona" goal

try became an internet sensation with a wonder goal seen by millions of football fans across the world.

Former Walsall and Stourbridge player

Sean Geddes netted one of the goals of the season with his 'rabona' effort against Bar-

row.

The 22-year-old from West Bromwich wrapped his right foot around the back of his left leg to chip the keeper from the edge of the penalty area.

Now at Worcester City, Geddes was also part of the longest penalty shoot-out in

FA Cup history. He was on target both in the regulation time and from the spot, in the epic 14-13 second round defeat against League One Scunthorpe. He had previously struck in the shock first round defeat of for-mer winners Coventry City.

Footage of the goal shown by Worcester City through Youtube had 5,000 views in the first 10 hours of going online, going global soon after.

Geddes works as a lathe turner at the

engineering firm A&M EIJM in Smetinwick which makes Formula One and aircraft parts. He has been taken aback by the reac-tion his goal has received. "I couldn't believe it, it is mad how people have suddenly picked up on it," he said. "I

have suddenly picked up on it," he said. "I have got a friend in Norway and he said you are all over the TV."

are all over the TV."

In terms of the strike itself he admitted:
"I couldn't have hit it any better."
Worcester City FC director Rich Widdowson added it had helped to put the club on the map and knew it would be a sensation.
"When you saw it you knew it was a great

Second in the table after 50-point haul

CANNOCK travelled the long distance to Tenbury looking to go in to the Christmas break in second spot.

The build-up wasn't the greatest with the minibus arriving just 35 minutes before kick-off but the team looked focused in the short warm up.

Scott Pedley started the game and kicked off the scoring with a penalty Runhy

way took a pass and touched down for a 32-6 lead and Madsen claimed the last score of the half. The message to Cannock for the second half was clear

or the second half was clear
- stick to the game plan.
But the game was played
at 100mph so mistakes were
made, fortunately for Cannock at a time when they

could afford to make them.

could afford to make them.

However, John Shirley,
Scott Lathe and Carl
Palmer entered the fray
and injected some energy
to some tiring legs. From a
rolling maul from a line out,
Lovell scored for a well-deserved try.

A strong 10-minute spell

served try.

A strong 10-minute spell for Tenbury followed. Defence was solid and only a dubious forward pass caught the visitors off guard the home side to cross over.

The Lions roared back and powerful lock Brookes smashed through tackles to offload to Frost to score.

Cannock went searching to make it 50-plus and they reached their target when Dave Edwards, Pedley and Richards combined to set up Lovell for the final try to

round off the performance

scoring with a penalty won by man of the match Dave Lovell.

Tenbury came back and were really pumped for this game in front of a large crowd. A high tackle resulted in their skipper evening the scores at 3-3.

It was a slow start from

evening the scores at 3-3.

It was a slow start from
the visitors due to the long
journey but the Lions were
slowly getting a foothold on
the game.

Some strong carries from
Josh Humphries and Joe
Brookes led to another penalty and again Pedley converted.

Pressure

The impressive Stephen Frost found Pedley and with a nice switch play, Gareth Ley crashed over for the game's first try, soon added to by a Jon Freeman effort, giving the visitors a 20-3 lead before Tenbury reduced the arrears with a penalty after a spell of pressure.

Sure.

Cannock now upped the ante and Freeman dotted

Tenbury failed to drop their heads and Cannock were made to work hard for their scores.

Lovell and Sonny Stanaway combined well and the ever supporting Brad Stana-

Beddow

Happy 1st birthday to our very special little girl

e from all your fa X X X

Clubs still Waite for their run of draws to end



Nathan Waite is first to react to put the Scholars a goal up against Sutton

Chasetown 1 Sutton 1

AN entertaining game saw honours shared in an incredible sixth consecutive league draw between these two sides – and the eighth in 12 league contests between them.

contests between them.

Former Scholars keeper Lee Evans
was the visitors' hero, making a
string of saves in the second half.
Sutton's Jordan Nadat saw two
early efforts blocked by Grant Beckett as the league leaders started

brightly before John Bateman pushed a Justin Richards shot wide. Chasetown were camped inside their own half for long periods with a solitary effort from Richard Davies which Evans rushed out to smother the best they had offered.

the best they had offered.

That was, until Chasetown took
the lead just shy of the half-hour
mark as leading scorer Nathan Waite
poached to flick past Evans. After the
break, Chasetown were rampant.

Waite had two shots saved then Grif-

Against the roun of the second half play, midway through the half, the Royals levelled with a Richards' free-

Noyas revened with a Richards Fre-kick that flew beyond Bateman.

The Goalline Decision System from the Premier League would have been put to the test before the end when Nick Wellecomme's acrobatic overhead kick was deemed not to have crossed the line by the officials.

Squad is maturing according to Batth

SKIPPER Danny Batth says the belief Wolves showed to grab a late point against Brighton was down to the growing maturity of the squad.

Wolves piled the pressure on the 10-man Sea gulls for virtually all of the second half on before finally being rewarded by

the second half on before finally being rewarded by Batth's late leveller.

The Brierley Hillborn defender said: "The Championship is really very tight and it's a division we're still learning about. We're learning how to come through sticky patches and how to come back from a goal down.

"It can go one of two

"It can go one of two ways, you can either get on to each other or you can pull together."

"And I think we've shown over the last few weeks some maturity and getting the team together with the fans."

with the fans."

The captain had a half-chance to win it after his equaliser and admitted Wolves were disappointed not to have made it backtoback victories of ton. to-back victories after their win at Sheffield Wednesday.

He added: "It was just a case of us needing the second goal but it didn't fall for us.

"We had some good chances and set-pieces from good positions, we just need to capitalise."

Loan star Graham may stay

WOLVES boss Kenny Jack-ett has hinted he is keen to keep loan star Danny Gra-ham into the New Year. The Molineux head coach wants to add to his striking options for the second half of the season – and that could mean an extended stay for Sunderland man Graham.

The 29-year-old has played five games and scored once since moving from Wearside on loan but was substituted after 45 minutes of the 1-1 draw with Brighton with Brighton.

Jackett is keen to discuss extending his loan. The boss said: "I have been pleased with Danny. He has added some experience to our frontline. He has been unlucky not to score more.



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Announcements must be supplied by 12noon on Monday For the same weeks publication.

A NEW book on the history of Walsall FC has been

Author and historian Mike Bradbury has an-nounced the release of Birth Of The Saddlers.

It took Mike and his team of researchers two years to unearth the details as they scoured almost a thousand news-

almost a thousand newspapers from the Victorian era to compile the book.

Although there have been one or two attempts to write the history of Walsall FC, Mike was dismayed to find that the first four decades have been ignored by other writers, and many key features are wrong in several well-known books.

Mike had to put some key factors right in his new 290-page publication, saying photos of Walsall Swifts and Walsall Town were the wrong way

Town were the wrong way around in other books and adding he had to correct dozens of players' names previously published.

The author even visited The author even visited the gravestones of many Walsall Swifts and Walsall Town players to make sure he got the correct birth and death records.

The book is available at £12.99 from Walsall FC shop, Waterstones and Amazon, or from Mike at 19 Calstock Road, Willenhall. Please add £2 p&p.

Surprise as Hayes rock the Mikes

Boldmere 1 Heath Hayes 2 HEATH Hayes have lost only once in six and pulled off a shock result by beating

on a stock result by beauing third-placed Boldmere. The Mikes pushed hard in the first half but could not penetrate a solid Hayes de-fence. Kieron Clarke tested Matt Cottrell with good ef-fort from 18 yards which the keeper was gould to keeper was equal to. On 25minutes Haves took

On 25minutes Hayes took the lead with a Liam Degville header, past ex-Hayes keeper Adam Jenkins.
Roland Agbor levelled in the 72nd minute but with the hosts going flat out for a winner, Hayes substitute Matthew Barnett's shot took a slight defection to wrongfoot Jenkins and Hayes held on with keeper Matt Cottrell outstanding.

Player finds right time for hole-in-one

THE time was right for a Cannock golfer when he scored a hole-in-one during a recent club competition to be rewarded with a limited-edition watch as recognition for the

Kenneth Brown, aged 73, scored his ace with a three-wood on the 206-yard, parthree eighth at his club, Lilleshall Hall GC, and the 14-handicapper was rewarded with membership of the exclusive BOSS Watches H1 Club and a specially-commissioned, commemorative timepiece.

He said: "I have been a member of Lil-leshall since 1971 and never achieved a

hole-in-one. My playing partner has had five holes-in-one before but never in a com-petition and said he'd willingly swap his five for my one."

for my one."

The luxury German brand has again pledged to reward club golfers with an exclusive watch for every hole-in-one recorded during a club competition in 2014 – after giving away £600,000-worth of limited-edition mementos in 2013.

The scheme is open to any golfer whose

based social network for golfers – and any-body playing in official club competitions is eligible. Currently, more than 1,800 clubs use the website.

Memorable

Stephen Brydon, commercial director for MGS Distribution, the official licenced UK distributor for BOSS Watches, said: "Congratulations to Kenneth on achieving golf's Holy Grail of a hole-in-one.

"To the majority of amateur golfers, recording a hole-in-one will be the most

we want to ensure they have much better memories than merely a dent in their bank balance after buying drinks in the club-

"The exclusive BOSS watch is available only to golfers who record a hole-in-one. It will provide a constant reminder of the achievement and also help to ensure they're never late for a tee-time again."

Brown is also awarded membership of the exclusive BOSS Watches H1 Club which offcorits a better the available who offcorits as the second of the seco

fers its members access to exclusive benefits and merchandise.

Pitmen move on up after late Glover goal

DANNY Glover was the Pitmen's match-winner - but only just after almost contriving to miss an open goal.

Trinity keeper Jan Budtz – who once played four games while on loan at Wolves – was unsettled by substitute Marvin Robinson's presence and missed a cross into the box in the 75th minute.

a cross into the box in the As the ball rolled towards goal and appeared to be going over the line, Glover attempted to make sure – but he managed to stab the ball against the upright from close range

the ball against the upright from close range.
Fortunately the striker had enough composure to finish the job before opposi-tion defenders could inter-vene and his strike sealed the points and lifted Hed-nesford to 10th in the Con-ference North table ahead of the Boxing Day visit to Worcester City.

Squabbling

The Keys park clash in general was a tetchy affair, especially in the first half as Pitmen captain Darren Campion refused to back down from provocation by Darryn Stamp who was at the centre of most incidents in the opening half an hour, before being substituted before being substituted after a nasty collision with Dan Crane.

In between the squab-bling and posturing, Paul McCone had given the home side the lead on 21 minutes when he rose highest from a corner and headed the ball emphatically beyond former Doncaster and Hartlepool custodian Budtz.

Ex-Albion player James Hurst had to bravely head

Football

the ball clear after Crane dropped a long ball into the box which fell to the tiny substitute Lynton Karkach, who, despite giving away almost a foot to McCone and Bailey, looked a threat throughout the match.

Gainsborough came out the stronger in the second half. Karkach popped up again at the back post but again at the back poss of the saw his shot squirm across the goal with the Pitmen defence desperately trying to hack the ball clear before Glover grazed the top of the cross bar with another of his trademark long range free kids. free kicks.

Karkach finally bagged the equaliser on 68 min-utes when a loose ball fell to him inside the area giving Trinity hope of taking something from the game, but top scorer Glover had other ideas, again proving to be the Pitmen's lethal weapon. Hednesford Town: Crane, Hurst, Campion, Bailey, McCone, Thor-ley (Robinson 74), Osborne, Walker, Glover, Digglin (Westwood 78), Batch-elor (Thomas 62). Subs not used: Mel-bourne, Sullivan.

Gainsborough Trinity: Budtz, Roma, Lacey, Binns, Quinn (Salt 61), Pic-ton, Roberts, Toner, Bateson, Stamp (Karkach 27), Davie. Subs not used: Martin, Plumtree, Wisdom-Lockwood.



Hednesford striker Danny Glover celebrates after his late match-winning goal for the Pitmen

Quartet up their ranks at gradings

A MARTIAL arts group celebrated the birth date of its founder with a seminar and gradings event.

Black Star Aikido marked the anniversary of the birth of Morihei Ueshiba.

Special guest Instructor Shihan Ian Watts, a 6th Dan Aikido Master and national coach, attended and presided on the grading panel where four Black Star Aikido students were being tested

for 2nd Dan.

Shihan Watts independently verified and certified all four students

with their new ranks.

He said: "It is a pleasure to see Aikido performed in this dynamic way by young warriors. Aikido is not just for the old. It suits all ages." The Black Star club has

seen a growth in Aikido over this last year in par-ticular and welcomes new

blood in 2015.
Chief Instructor Shihan Tony Brown said:
"The students were tested hard. I am so proud that their years of hard train-ing and commitment has paid off."

Training is on Monday and Friday evenings at the village hall, Pinfold Lane, Cheslyn Hay. Visit www.blackstaraikido.com or contact info@black-staraikido.com

Skipper: Cain more than able

CAPTAIN Adam Chambers CAPTAIN Adam Chambers has hailed the "frightening" potential of Michael Cain after Walsall extended the midfielder's loan stay. The Saddlers secured the

20-year-old Leicester City man for a further month. He

man for a further month. He will remain at the Banks's until January 17.

Cain has been at the club since October and has impressed the skipper. He said: "Michael came in and right from his first game was excellent.

"He is a very talented lad, who is still very young and is only going to get better - that's the frightening thing."

Manager Dean Smith said: "It's a real boost to be able to further extend Mi-chael's loan."







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60

Golden goal

Geddes goes global with wonder strike Page 58

Oh, Danny boy

Glover points the way as Pitmen on the up Page 59



Sports Desk 01902 319531

email: Chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

Rangers humble **Scholars** in snow

Chasetown 0
Stafford Rangers 2
CHASETOWN'S highest
crowd of the season, 355,
saw Rangers win the Staffordshire derby.
After an even first half,
played in heavy rain, Chasetown created some good opportunities that belied their
current league position.

current league position.

However, it was the visitors who started the second half more brightly and took the lead seven minutes into the second half when Daniel Cheefer and head Cheefer and head of the lead seven minutes into the second half when Daniel Cheefer and head of the lead of the lea

the second half when Daniel Cope fired beyond Chase keeper John Bateman.

Ten minutes later, Rangers doubled their advantage as Christian Dacres drove

as Christian Dacres drove across keeper Bateman from a tight angle.

The introduction of Chase substitute Simon Brown gave the home side fresh impetus and with his first touch of the ball he forced Adam Whitehouse to dive low to his left to concede a

corner.

Rain turned to sleet and sleet into snow for the final 20 minutes and, at times, viewing was difficult for supporters and the lines were becoming covered in snow and hard to determine The intervention of the weather ended the game as

weather ended the game as a spectacle and conditions were such that the game may not have started if those had been the conditions at kick off.

Saddlers full of confidence

SADDLERS top scorer Tom Bradshaw reckons Walsall had nothing to fear ahead of a festive double header against Swindon and MK Dons.

Third-placed Robins were visiting the Banks's on Boxing Day before the Saddlers travel to Milton Keynes 48 hours later.

But, with Dean Smith's side unbeaten in seven games, Bradshaw said they were heading into the games full of confidence.

"We have every confidence in ourselves," Bradshaw said. "Why can't we pick up six points from the next two games? It is perfectly achievable."

Bradshaw netted his

Bradshaw netted his 11th goal of the season in Saturday's 1-1 draw with Sheffield United which kept the Saddlers impressive run

going.
"I think it ended up being a good point," he said.

Wolves take their revenge

Wolves 2 Brentford 1

BRENTFORD had the style, Wolves had the substance. This time, the latter won the day.

the day.

Little more than four weeks after being humbled 4-0 at Griffin Park, Kenny Jackett's men got their revenge at Molineux to confirm they are very much back on track and back in the play-off hunt.

Nouha Dicko bagged his second goal in three days to set Wolves on their way to a victory which moved them within three points of the sixth-placed visitors.

At times it wasn't pretty and Brentford,

with their precise passing and movement, will feel they should have come away with a point. But Wolves were too stubborn, too determined in defence to let that happen, even after Danny Batth's unfortunate own goal three minutes from time had given the visitors a sniff and set up a heart-thumping finale.

Carl Ikeme saved from Moses Odubajo in stoppage time, before Andre Gray hit the post and Molineux reverberated to the

sound of more than 20,000 increasingly nervous and despairing cries

The end of the game would doubtless have been much more serene had Kevin McDonald not seen red for picking up a needless second yellow, four minutes after James Tarkowski's own goal had seemed to make certain the win.

McDonald's dismissal was the obvious low point on an otherwise satisfying day for head coach Jackett. Defeat at Griffin Park had brought into focus the two clubs' respective trajectories since winning promotion from League One last season. Wolves are now right back on their heels and can look forward to 2015 with some excitement

Jackett is not without his worries. Namely, what does he do when Dicko and Bakary Sako depart for the African Cup of Nations next month? Dicko's importance has been underlined by his winner at Watford and his goal here, though the visitors were left fuming after replays showed he was around three yards offside when Kortney Hause fired the long pass forward.

Wolves went ahead as Dicko latched onto a Hause long ball and lifted ot past Button The final whistle brought relief for Wolves.

Aldridge pile on pressure

Aldridge 57 Whittington 5 Midlands 5 West (North)

Midlands 5 West (North)
ALDRIDGE finished off the
first half of their league programme with this comprehensive victory over strugglers Whittington.
The home side's forwards
took the accordancy early

The home side's forwards took the ascendancy early on which they maintained throughout. The stream of possession that this provided was shovelled out to allow their backs plenty of opportunities to put the visitors' defence to the test. It held for just eaven minutes thors defence to the test. It held for just seven minutes before hooker Lea Ross opened the scoring. As Aldridge piled on the pressure, further tries fol-lowed from flanker Ben Pit-

tam, centre Dan McKenna full-back Alex Yates and prop Alex Reed. Yates converted three to make it 31-0 at the break.

at the break.

Whittington finally managed to briefly reverse the trend with a consolation try late in the second half when scrum-half James Crawford squeezed over.

squeezed over.
Yates and McKenna
posted their second touchdowns and further tries
came from lock Dan Laston
and winger Ashley Lowe.
Yates converted three.

rs Pi E STO

Worcester City 0 Hednesford Town 3 (match abandoned)

HEDNESFORD were left dismayed

when their game was abandoned.
With Town 3-0 up in the 76th minute the referee decided that playing conditions had got too bad to continue and called the game off. Hednesford took the lead in the 29th minute when Gra-

Hednesford took the lead ir ham Hutchinson sliced the ball into his own net follow-ing a long throw by Ben Bai-ley into the City box. With rain and snow con-tinuing to fall football was hard at times but both sides continued to persist and it was Town who had the nar-row advantage at half time. City were the first side to test either goalkeeper as

City were the first side to test either goalkeeper as Sean Geddes whipped in a shot that Dan Crane man-aged to palm away with Mike Symons' header easily saved on the follow-up.

Flicked

The visitors took the lead The visitors took the lead in the 29th minute when a long throw from Ben Bailey was flicked on by Paul McCone and Graham Hutchinson sliced into his own net to make it 1-0.

The start of the second half saw City putting increased pressure on the Hednesford back line.

Hednesford made it 2-0 in the 62nd minute. A corner

the 62nd minute. A corner from the left was cleared as far as Glenn Walker and his

far as Glenn Walker and his effort was flicked home by Batchelor. Sixty seconds later it was 3-0 as Jamey Osborne won the ball from the kick-off, pushed forward and found Walker who drove home from 18 yards out, past the

Football

hapless Vaughan.

The City goalkeeper was obviously most dismayed at these two strikes as he took it upon himself to point out wet patches in the penalty area to the officials at any chance he could.

With the rain continuing to fall both sides still contested what was an end-to-end affair with Town's defence holding up to what City threw at them whilst Steve Diggin was unfortu-nate not to get on the end of two through balls played into him

of two through balls played into him.

Then with 14 minutes remaining, as City surged forward past the referee, he suddenly decided that enough was enough and abandoned the game.

Worcester City: Vaughan, Reir, Jackman, Hutchinson, Rowe, Gater, Nti, Deeney, Symons, Geddes, Murphy (Taylor 60) Subs not used: Wright, Dunkley, Thomas, Veiga Veiga

Hednesford Town:
Crane, Hurst, Campion,
Bailey, McCone, Thorley,
Osborne, Walker, Diggin,
Thomas, Batchelor

Subs not used: Melbourne, Robinson.



Steve Diggin opens the scoring for the Pitmen in a match that was controversially abandoned after 75 minutes

Latest scores in bowls league

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Bowls Results:
Division One Hurcombe & Powis
15 Preece & Hocknell 21; Newey &
Hazlehurst 21 Edwards & Cookson 17;
A & G.Parsons 12 Cavill & Bardsley
21; Evans & Pritchatt 16 Handley &
Chester 21; D & G.Storer 7 Hayward

Chester 21; D & G.Storer 7 Hayward & Gray 21 Division Two: Garbett & Taylor 21 M & P.Colbourne 10; S & C.Baird 16 Partridge & Stacey 21; Chambers & Westwood 21 Allcock & Johnson 12; M & P.Colbourne 21 Garbett & Taylor 15; Worthington & Lines 21 Prece B. Worthington & Lines 21 Prece B. Salbaim 11; Evertt & Edwards 20 Simonczyk & Kelly 21

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford. Thursday, January 1

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